

SURFACE CREEK



THE BAR-I LIVERY AND SALE BARN

Hazel Austin photo.

COUNTRY

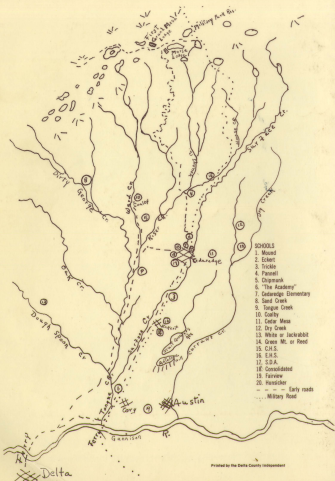
"BY A NATIVE DAUGHTER"

Hazel Baker Austin

1977

2nd Edition

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AUTHOR

The author has always considered Cedarvale her home town, although her mother went to Boulder, Colo., for her birth on May 10, 1869. She graduated from Lake Mountain Academy, Pueblo, Colo., in 1890 and married Paul S. Austin, a rancher-cowboy, at Colesburg, Cedarvale, in 1912. Except for her years at the Academy and the first eight years of marriage, she has always lived on a ranch north of Cedarvale.

She has been sending local news to Delta County newspapers since 1950 and has been a free-lance reporter for DCM since 1955, working only part time the past few years. She has had articles printed in several Adventist church papers and other periodicals. Her book "The School on the Hill," a history of Lake Mountain Academy, was published in 1974. The Austins have no children but a good many young people call them "Uncle Paul and Aunt Hazel."

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the memory of Clyde W. Brewer, owner, editor and publisher of the SURFACE CREEK CHAMPION, a weekly newspaper. During the years 1904 to 1943 he did not miss an issue. The bound volumes are on file in the Cedarvale Town Hall. He reported many times that the purpose of his newspaper was to boost the laws of Cedarvale, the beautiful scenery and the fruit and cattle industries of Surface Creek Valley. This, too, is the aim of the author of this volume.

The history of Cedarvale and the upper Surface Creek Valley could not be given by itself, first must come a short resume of the entire western area and Delta County. There is not time to go into all the details but we do find that a number of explorers, trappers, surveyors and government men had come to Uncolpagne Valley by mid 1870's. Some turned back to report the beauties of the area, while some went on in their search for a gold trim route to the Pacific coast.

Western Colonization had been the hope of the Ute Indians for several years during the mid 19th century. After Indians were put on reservations government posts were set up at Meeker and in the San Luis Valley. After the Indians were moved to the Western Slope the Los Pinos Agency was moved to the Uncolpagne and located near Corona. It was called "Fort Crawford" for a soldier that had lost his life in New Mexico. The Utes were a hard, sturdy people with skin so dark that the Arapahos and Cheyennes called them "Black Indians."

The Uncolpagne, a portion of Western Colorado had had paid allegiance to three different flags, Spain, Mexico and the United States. Spain claimed it originally but after Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1819, Colorado came under the parental care of Mexico. On Feb. 2, 1848 it was ceded to the United States by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the nation's war with Mexico.

As friction increased between the Utes and the advancing settlers, primarily in the San Luis Valley the Utes were finally put on a reservation in 1848, which included the Uncolpagne area. The training of the headquarters from San Luis Valley to the Uncolpagne was completed about Nov. 20, 1875. Chief Parley was given a 400 acre ranch in a new area and the government built him and Chipeta an adobe house on the southern outskirts of the present, Montrose site, furnishing it with beds, rags, tables and stoves. But the Utes did not want to stay in a settlement. For some time settlers, or prospective settlers of western Colorado had been trying to get the government to move the Utes off the rich mineral and agriculture lands of their reservation. The spring of the White River Utes in North Western Colorado in which Nathan Meeker, the White River Agent and his employees were killed, brought the matter to a head.

The following year in 1880 a treaty was entered into with the Utes whereby they agreed to be moved to a new reservation. Before this treaty could go into effect, it was necessary to get the consent of three-fourths of the Utes. President Grant appointed a commission of five men to go to the reservation and try to get the required number of signatures. The Utes were reluctant to sign the agreement, and it looked for a while, like the treaty was doomed. However, Oscar Moore, builder of BPC, one of the commissioners, saved the day by privately giving \$2.00 in cash to every Ute that he could persuade to sign. By Sept. 11, 1880 he had the necessary number of signatures.

Herbert Castle was anxious to come to the new country he heard about, which would soon be open to settlers. He left his home in Michigan in 1880 to work in the mines at Lake City. During the summer he took a camping trip to the top of Uncolpagne Peak where he could look south as far as Grand Mesa and be dismissed of the time when he and his family could make their home there.

In Feb. 1881 George W. States, (father of George G. States and grandfather of Willard States at Cedarvale) with his daughter Eliza, the wife of Herbert Castle and her two children Eva and Ira (Eva 4, and Ira was less than one year old), came to the end of the railroad near the present town of Gunnison. Herbert was waiting for them with saddle and pack mules, to take them to the new country.

The railroad was being built along the Gunnison River in Black Canyon and the pioneers followed the surveyor's roads and the staked out trail. The two children rode a large box, lined with quilts, which was fastened on one side of a pack saddle. A big roll of bedding balanced the load. The children had plenty of fresh air as one side of the box was open. Here the children rode most of the time, except in the roughest places when the mother carried the youngest child.

As winter kept the bottom of the Black Canyon wrapped up in a blanket of ice and snow, the travelers sometimes rode over the ice of the river

when there was so trail along the side. Sometimes they even camped overnight on the ice, built a campfire and cooked fish and venison on the ice, with water of the Gunnison gurgling beneath them.

It was an early March when they came up out of the canyon and got their first glimpse of their land of Promise. The next night they pitched their camp on what is now the site of Montrose. Not thinking it wise to enter further into hostilities and so early, they camped in a sheltered place near the Uncolpagne River.

With the American troops not far away at "Fort Crawford" they decided it was safe to go further in the valley and in May they reached the site of Delta where they found a few tents pitched -- and crude buildings. They spent several days looking around, then crossed the river on a log raft and picked out a home site and soon a hastily made cabin of cottonwood logs was ready for the family to move into. A little piece of ground was spaced out and a garden was planted. With the new grocery store many more things were available. They realized that the vegetables raised in the garden would be needed to help provide food for the next winter. There was no irrigation ditches at that time but the vegetables thrived with the water Eliza Castle and her father George W. States carried from the river each day.

After the garden was planted Herbert went back to the mines to work and his brother Newton (father of Mrs. Winifred Schmidt of Cedarvale, Mrs. Edith Parker of Delta and Marian Crook of Idaho) joined him. They mailed on with pack burros from the mines at Telluride and Duray to the railroad.

The soldiers started to move the Indians to the new Utah Reservation in Utah in 1881 and the last was taken out on Sept. 2, 1882. With the treaty signed by the Indians nearly one third of the state of Colorado was opened for settlement. The Government maintained soldiers at Fort Crawford for several years should the Indians change their minds. Some did come back to hunt, but the white man's methods of hunting and tanning was different than the redman's. The Indians found their plentiful game had vanished and they quit coming back altogether. Chief Dorly and his wife Chipeta became very good friends of the Castle family and visited them many times in their home.

So anxious were some of the pioneers to settle in the beautiful country of Western Colorado that some came as early as 1879 and 80 but were detained by soldiers at Fort Crawford. Charles B. Estey was one of these early comers and he made a secret trip to the area north of Delta to look for a choice location. He saw the smoke of the big fire the Indians set along the foothills of Grand Mesa to show their contempt for having to leave the territory when he found out that there was a group of the warlike Indians camping east one of the creeks he "got scared out" and went back to the fort.

The Ute Indians are remembered as a very warlike people, often fighting among themselves as well as other tribes. The tribe could easily have destroyed itself had they not been moved to the reservation where the government could regulate their activities more than they had while in Western Colorado.

Sept. 2, 1882 was the date the lives of the Indians were taken by the soldiers near the military road over Grand Mesa to the new reservation in Utah. This date brought an influx of settlers into the Uncolpagne and Delta areas.

Some were ready to come in the day the Indians left and others came in a short time later. In 1882 several other members of the Castle and States families joined the Herbert Castle family in the new country. Herbert and Newton built a mill to take the people across the Gunnison River at Delta and built John Simpson the Ferry for several years. There was also a ferry in question near the mouth of Trango Creek. The wagons and people rode on the raft but their homes had to swim across. When the water was low in river some people would ford it.

These families along with many others decided to leave the Delta settlement and move further north where irrigation water could be secured from the streams, and they settled around the present town of Ecklar. Part of the land was secured from the government by relinquishing rights and part through pre-emption.

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AN EXPLANATION

The term "Surface Creek Valley" came into general use by the early settlers to designate the valley that comprised the lands watered by Surface Creek, League Creek, Reed Creek, Dry Creek and their tributaries. The area of this valley is about 14 miles long and varies from three to eight miles in width and covered the territory from Grand Mesa to the north to the Gunnison River on the south.

The United States Forest Service designates it now as the Surface Creek drainage area. The land owned Cory and Ecklar has been known since pioneer times as Surface Creek Mesa. It is really a bench above League Creek. The early settlers called the northern part Surface Creek Valley. Records show that several of these early settlers came to look around before the Indians were taken out. They "spied out the land" as it were and looked for choice homestead sites, but the presence of Indians caused them to return to the protection of the settlements of Delta and Fort Crawford, near Montrose.

Most of the land was secured from the government through pre-emption or relinquishment, but the term homesteading and homesteaders will be used in talking about the pioneers. They had to file as their claims, live on the land a certain length of time and make

certain improvements to "prove up", and to receive a U.S. Land Patent. Although some of the people became discouraged after a few years of hardships, most of them came with the idea of building a home on the new frontier, and succeeded.

Homesteaders were of different religious faiths, political beliefs and of several nationalities. They met on the common good of a pioneer, lived a crude log cabin at first, and on the most part worked together for the betterment of their communities.

This is not a history of every pioneer coming to the Surface Creek Valley, as a chapter and more could be written about each family should information be available. This is a summary of events, places, and buildings having the most historical interest and stories of a cross section of the early settlers to show how people lived and worked in the early days.

Time for the beginning of this history dates back to 1881 and 1882, when the Ute Indians were taken from Western Colorado to the new Utah Reservation in Eastern Utah and Western Colorado was opened for settlement.

Any reference to "present day" refers to 1977, the time this work was compiled.

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A landmark of Surface Creek County for many years is the Bar I Barn. Picture was taken during the years the ranch was owned by Stockham

BAR I RANCH

The story is told that Henry Kohler came to Surface Creek County in the late 1870's while the Indians were still here and built a big cabin on Surface Creek. Some the Indians were camped in the saddle on the south side of Cedar Mesa, within sight of the cabin. They had a race track on the flat land of the mesa and were engaged in horse races.

One evening several Indians came to the cabin and told the white man in an uncertain tone that they would give him until the next morning to get out of the valley. He did not care to be told a second time — he was gone when morning came and did not return until after the land was open for settlement.

Fred Leonard homesteaded land that is part of the town of Cedarside and sold it to Perry Settle on Sept. 21, 1885. (This information was found in an abstract of property of South First Street.) In November of the same year the land was sold to the Surface Creek Livestock and Company, made up of John Loegren, Augustus Rogel, Thomas Harrison Powers, Henry Kohler and Thore Thompson. Henry Kohler took over the management of the ranch and it was called by many "the Kohler Ranch."

There is no definite record of the date the barn and other ranch buildings were constructed. They may have been built by Settle or after Kohler became manager of the place.

There was some native hay in the meadows of the ranch, which was soon replanted with 600 acres of alfalfa when the ranch was in full production. They were putting up from 2,000 to 3,000 tons of hay each year. They ran thousands of head of cattle on Grand Mesa in the summer, fed some cattle on the ranch, while others were taken to the alkali flats near Delta, to winter. The ranch had the very best water right in the valley.

The land (360 acres) that became the eastside of the Bar I Ranch) was Fred Leonard's homestead to Perry Settle in 1881. Other land was added until the ranch covered over 850 acres. In an article in the Delta County Independent written by Wilson Rockwell in 1954 is the information that: "Perry Settle built the old Bar I barn about 1891. Settle was the first manager of the ranch. In 1883, Henry Kohler succeeded Settle as manager and part owner of the ranch."

Several stories are told about Henry Kohler. One states that when he came back the second time he bought 10,000 head of cows with calves by their sides, another source gives the number as 5,000 head. Which one source is right it is believed that he did bring cattle. Another source tells that Settle bought it cattle.

When the ranch was established the north side of their holdings was in

Bothers and Zanetti.

Delta County Historical Society — photo

the center of the present Cedarside, but the cattle company considered all of the land extending from their ranch to Grand Mesa as their cattle grazing range. Although Kohler was not known to be a hard working man himself, he did know how to organize work for his many hired men and soon had a smooth running organization.

The main ranch buildings were built in the early 1890's and are now surrounded by the incorporated town of Cedarside. The old barn has been a landmark for nearly a century and still shows the skill and care put into its construction. The unique feature of the old barn was the wooden pegs used in shingling the roof and finishing work. The three ventilators on top of the barn have been gone for many years, but the frame work is still solid.

The ranch became known as the Bar I Ranch and Cattle Company, but the name on the drop door to the hay mow was lettered The I Livery and Sales Barn. The company built up a cattle empire which was closed as "the best ranch west of the Divide."

The dwelling houses on the ranch were probably built about the time the barn was constructed. "The Big House" where Art and Mary Scott now live was originally built as a cook house where the meals were prepared for some 15 to 20 ranch hands and cowboys, probably twice that number of men were fed during the hay harvest. There were three bedrooms upstairs but the lower part of the house consisted mainly of a big room. Old timers who worked at the ranch at that time remember a long table stretched across the length of the room, loaded with food where the men ate three times a day.

The house where Mrs. Mattie Jordan now lives was the home of Henry and Sophia Kohler. Originally it had three bedrooms and a living room. Later another room with fireplace and sun porches were added on three sides.

Many other buildings in the ranch were built by the first owners. A long barn-coop-garage with ventilation tower, east of it the barn, a water wheel, sheds for the dairy cattle and buildings where butter and cheese were made, and an ice house, a butcher shop and water wheel.

John and Fred Wettsch from Germany came to the ranch in the early 1890's. Fred worked as a cook in "The Big House" and John, a butcher by trade, worked as a butcher at the ranch for several years. It is remembered that the ranch made regular shipments to Denver for fresh beef, butter, cheese and eggs for several years.

The entire ranch was a show place and all the buildings were much better than the log cabins constructed by the early settlers. Sophia Kohler loved the ranch and was a gracious hostess when the pioneer women came to call. She tried to better her home with flowers and



Putting a sing load of hay into the old Bar I Barn.

Mignon Warnack Huddles — photo

remembered for having a bed of English violets growing near the door to her home.

At the time the ranch was established it was bordered on the north by a large grove of Cedar trees and Sophia gave the ranch the name of "Cedar Edge." She suggested the name to Kate Lissett when she sent in a petition for Postoffice of the new settlement in 1894, but some way the two words were combined by the Postal Department and the name sent for the new Post Office was Cedarside.

There is no record that the old Barn was ever used as a sales barn, but Sam Lovett worked for the Bar I ranch in the 1890's and probably used the barn as the base for livery service to Delta before his livery barn was constructed in 1904.

Will Kiser handled lumber from Grand Mesa to the Bar I ranch, several years after the barn was built. The lumber was probably used in construction of some of the smaller buildings or the high board fence which encircled the barn lot, except on the south.

The ranch was sold to Thomas H. Power in 1903.

A notice in the Champion of Feb. 17, 1905 states: "Thomas H. Powers sold the ranch, known as the Kohler Farm of 874 acres, about 600 in alfalfa. The purchases are W.B. and A.N. Stockham and James Zanetti. The consideration price was \$30,000, ridiculously low for this class of land, the enormous amount of water and all the buildings. Zanetti will be in charge of the farm."

Besides the 10 acres the Stockham Brothers and Zanetti offered for building sites for the town of Cedarside, Zanetti advertised that he had 80 acres south of Cedarside he would divide up in five to 10 acre homesteads.

Leon and Mattie Jordan of Hatchkia bought the ranch in 1908. The

shout of the cowboys and the bawling of the cattle now changed to bleating of sheep and barking of sheep dogs. Art and Mary Scott came to work with the Jordans in 1943 and before Leon passed away Art had taken over the management of the ranch. In addition to about 550 acres of the home ranch, they bought the Kilian pasture on the south side of Grand Mesa and a big sheep pasture on the Muddy. They ran two bands of sheep.

Mrs. Jordan said both of the houses were in a sad state of neglect when they bought the ranch. The Jordans chose the smaller house, but had to rebuild the foundation, and added on sun porches all the way around and built her a green house.

The son of some of the earliest settlers, Mort Peterson, was a neighbor of the Jordans when they first came to the ranch. Mort told Mrs. Jordan he had often worked on the ranch when he was a young man, helping to put up hay in the summer and ice in the winter.

With all the work on the ranch being done by hand or with horses, it is not too hard to imagine the 60 men he said he had seen working on the ranch during lay time, mowing, raking, shocking the hay and hauling it

to the big barn, all with horses.

Peterson told Mrs. Jordan that a pine grove was growing along Surface Creek, east of the ranch, when the early settlers came to the area. He said that these trees were cut and the logs hauled to the barn yard where a saw mill was set up and all the stookings, rafters and siding for the barn were cut on the spot. This was a new story to Mrs. Jordan, but it seemed logical as there probably was no saw mill on Grand Mesa in the early 1890's, and the wagon roads to haul the lumber over. According to Peterson the pine tree and willow trees in his yard were about 100 years old.

Art and Mary Scott live in the Big House. It too was in need of repair when they had it worked over several years ago. Poor foundations had been laid for both houses, which caused one side of them to settle. Since it was remodelled it is a comfortable, modern home.

The buildings on the Bar I (pronounced eye) Ranch at Cedarside are discolored and starting to tumble down. "They are still used, but the bar is I there any more," so wrote a new Delta Junior High School teacher in an article for a local newspaper about 1935.

Another teacher who had lived in Cedarside as a child and through high school years had a hard time convincing the newcomer that the bar in the same Bar I was not a bar per se (saloon), but originated because that was the brand used to mark cattle.

Early history of the ranch is being missed in information from different sources.

James Zanetti and the Stockham brothers bought the ranch from Thomas Powers in 1905. The former acted as manager and for several years it was known as the Zanetti Ranch. He was active in promoting the growth of the new settlement of Cedarside through the sale of building lots on the 10-acre town site, dedicated for that use. He also offered for sale 80 additional acres south of town for home acreages. The Bar I Ranch seemed to prosper under his management.

The date is not known when he and the Stockham brothers dissolved partnership, nor when Miller became the Stockham's partner. While Miller (P.H.) and sons came to Delta County in 1885, followed by Mrs. Miller and daughter a month later. The family lived on farms at Nettle and at Paines before coming to Cedarside in 1905. The children's names were Lloyd, Walter, Lucille, Frank, William and twins, Dale and Dwight.

The family moved to the Bar I Ranch in 1908 and Miller worked for the Stockhams, then farming. He also drove the stage line from Cedarside to Delta. The Miller Bros helped their father with the farm work.

An item in the Surface Creek Register, November 1910: "P.H. Miller closed a deal for the purchase of 10 acres of the Bar I Ranch upon which is situated the big barn and other buildings, formerly used in conducting the big cattle ranch. The consideration price is \$20,000." There is no record of how long he had possession of the property. Stockham brothers apparently retained the title.

April 18, 1911 the following sale bill was published in the Champion: "Miller and Stockham Brothers: Public Sale at the Bar I Ranch; 10 horses, 3 milk cows, 2 Jersey heifers, sheeps and brood sows, turkeys, geese, and chickens, 11 wagons, 4 sets of harness and buggy harness, hay equipment, plows, cream separator, all items under \$150 cash. One \$150 due in 3 months with 10 per cent interest."

No record exists of the operators of the ranch until about 1918 when the Tab Pierce family moved to the Adnutt house, the first one below the Cedarside creek. This was part of the Bar I Ranch and Tab was employed there for several years. His son, Jim, was born in this house in 1915 and a few years later the family moved to "The Big" house on the square. "Tab Van newspaper". Of the 36 or 37 years he was in charge, his brother, Ed, was his partner for 8 or 9 of them.

There were 640 acres in the ranch at that time. During the years the Pierces were there, the big cattle empire came to an end and sheep were brought on to the property. By the time the Pierces left, the owners had three bands of sheep. Sagar breeds were raised several years on some of the lower ranches. Three Mexican families lived on the ranch to look

FIRST ARIA FERRY

The first high water ferry over the Gunnison River was built by Herbert "Herbie" and Newton "Newt" Castle in 1853. This skill crossed the river just below the present North Delta bridge. The high water that year is believed to have been the highest ever experienced in this area. It was so high that they sometimes tied up the skill to the old Old Council Trees. More of the early settlers, many of whom were experienced ranchhands, were going to the Pacific country rather than to Surface Creek Valley. This influenced the fruit raising there that started shortly afterwards. The access point for both was Delta.

People going to the upper country had to cross the Gunnison River at Delta, follow the wagon tracks over the "dobbies" then cross Tongue Creek before climbing the steep road to Surface Creek Mesa.

Newton Castle took up land at Eckert and a little later his father Franklin Castle did the same. He was there when work was done on Grand Mesa.

At first there seemed to be enough water for all, but the earliest settlers had gone to Grand Mesa and enlarged the natural dams of the lakes to make reservoirs. They then filled out the natural water in the creeks. Consequently these people had more water during the periods when water was short than those who did not do so — resentment developed.

It was at such times that Newt was heard to remark, "If my peeps stood up their necks in cold water on Grand Mesa, working on reservoirs and shivering for two weeks afterwards, they would be more tolerant of winter nights."

Some of his experiences of clearing land, planting crops, riding horses Newt wrote in letters of Mary Waring in a 12-year courtship. His enthusiasm for Surface Creek County obliterated memory of hard times, hard work and financial difficulties.

However, during this time Newt and Herbie had a little cow camp on Dirty George Creek. Local people called it a "Milk Camp." Several summers they milked cows and churned butter and milled it into rolls which were kept fresh in a spring box. When they had enough butter to take to market, they would pack these in rolls that had been covered with maulin in a canvas bag which was well insulated with wet grass. By horseback they took it to the mining towns of Telluride.

They left the Milk Camp in the night and rode until the sun came up and the air started to get warm. They protected their precious butter in the shade while they slept, and the next night they would ride again, reaching Telluride in the morning of the second day. They carried what they saw the Dallas Divide and probably took the "Last Delator" road, the shortest route. They expected and got at least 35¢ per pound for the butter. While waiting for their mauls at Eckert to produce, they sometimes chaperoned pack-burrow or mule teams taking valuable ore from Telluride to the railroad for shipment.

After Newt got his ranch going he and Abe Reynolds built the Eckert store (Big E Market) which the latter operated for many years thereafter. The original foundation and part of the walls are believed to be a part of the present store building.

Newt tried anything to earn cash money. He went to Delta and worked in various places, such as the Court House, stores, and was working for Ray Simpson at the time of the Delta Bank Robbery. (When the alarm was given that a robbery was in progress, Simpson handed Newt a rifle but he found out too late that it was not loaded.)

Newt was cashier of the First National Bank in Delta in 1882 and in June of that year his sweetheart, Mary Waring, took him in Minneapolis where they were married. Their only witness was a little old lady, a former school teacher. Her civilities and friendship meant so much to them that they named their first daughter Wainwright (Schmidt) for her.

The newweds came to Delta to live, but soon moved to Newt's Eckert ranch. He still had the Cow Camp or Dirty George. Their daughter Wainwright started school at Eckert before he traded the Eckert ranch to Henry Teabrook for his holdings on Wan Nose Creek. While living there the three oldest children, Wainwright, Royce and Edith (Parker) of Delta rode horseback to attend the Lower Tongue Creek School, while the upper Tongue Creek School was being established.

ONE OF THE FIRST — HOUSES BUILT IN CADIZADO

One of the first houses in Cadizado (now owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Roe) was built in the early 1850's. The house was built on part of the 160 acres owned and Kate Lovett bought June 10, 1884 from John F. Jewett, who received the same from the U.S. Government on Aug. 5, 1837. The Lovett's acreage included the land where the Cadizado Schools now stand.

Soon after they bought the land and built their home, they adopted 10-year old Amanda Johnson (Parker). Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johnson. Her mother died when she was three years old and her father died the year she went to live with the Lovetts.

Amanda and her husband Parker Hart had five children. Parker Hart Jr., Elmer Hart Motte, Doris Hart Stewart, and Auld Hart made their homes in Cadizado, and Harold Hart lives in Grand Junction.

Kate Lovett sent in an application for a new Post Office for the same section. Mrs. Sophie Kohler suggested that she submit the name George Edge, the name she had given the Bar-I Ranch. The name was contracted by the U.S. Postal Department to Cadizado. The first Cadizado Post Office was opened Dec. 4, 1894.

Elmer (Star) Motte recalls his mother telling that Mrs. Lovett had a lean-to building constructed behind the new house to keep the cowboys and early settlers from tracking mud on their clean home. The first mail could have been handed out in her kitchen before the lean-to was built.

The 93 year old house still shows the fine workmanship that was put into the construction. It has been renovated into a modern home, but the restoration retains the original beauty. The ceiling of the kitchen is made of pressed tin, based in the construction of the first brick store buildings and other early day buildings.

The windows are still the same style, but some of the glass panes were replaced with other old bubbly glass. One pane had the word Lovett diamond-cut into it.

Amanda Hart told many interesting stories about her foster parents. They were remarkable, industrious people, even though they never stayed in one place very long. Lovett stayed to farm, operated a lively stable and stage line from the Bar-I Ranch, and from the Elk Livestock Barn. The barn was torn down in 1976.

In addition to keeping house and taking care of the Post Office, Kate Lovett often clerked in the covered-wagon shop that "Old Man" Omsness brought up from Delta twice a week. He tied his horses to stakes that grew at the site of the present Edwards Sporting Goods and Western Wear Store (Old Barker Goods).

Mrs. Lovett was a plump woman and there was not much room in the covered wagon when she clerked. The mobile store sold a few groceries, notions like needles, pins and thread, some dry goods and plug tobacco. Some of the oldsters remember this as the meat or grocery wagon.

Mrs. Lovett's daughter Amanda sometimes took time to help her in the wagon-store. This was the days of the rough West and many were the



ONE OF THE FIRST — houses built in Cadizado was built by Sam Lovett in the early 1850's and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Roe.

stories told of highwaymen. Mrs. Lovett told her daughter to give the money to anyone who attempted to rob her, but there was never any trouble.

H.A. Cobbett of Essex County, England, came to Delta County in 1882. Three years later his fiancee, Fannie Lillian Fort joined him and they were married in St. John's Cathedral in Denver. They came to Delta in 1896, were in California a few years and moved to Cadizado in 1908. They bought the Lovett house on a five acre tract of land, with several other log buildings. Here they made their home for 50 years.

Was it a coincidence that the man who lived in the Old Lovett house should be appointed Postmaster in 1927? In this time the Post Office had been moved into the rear of the Bank of Cadizado building, now part of the Kenneth Brooks Service and Storage Building. Cobbett was Postmaster here for six years, was out seven years, and was Postmaster again for a time when the Post Office was moved to the west side of the bank building, in the rooms that now house Kelly's Bookery.

The Lovetts continued to live in Cadizado until their deaths, 1917 and 1918. They lived in the old Schramm home, east of Surface Creek, and later they built the present brick house north of the lumber yard, First and Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Roe have received word that the Colorado Historical Society has designated their home as a place of historical interest, and it will be included in historical tours.

Besides the house, the Roes are especially proud of the trees that have made the yard a shady haven since the turn of the century. The most outstanding tree is the huge ash that measures 13 feet, six and three-fourths inches in circumference at four and a half feet from the ground. It has a branch spread of 75 feet, seven and one-half inches. The largest ash tree in the U.S. is 14 feet, eight inches in circumference. Last summer the Roes hosted a picnic under the big trees for residents of Horizons Nursing Home and friends who played under the tree when they were children.



Mr. and Mrs. E.M. "Lib" Paxon, Marcella and Bud moved to the Bar-I ranch in 1918. Son Jim was born on the ranch in 1913.

after the animals and also did part of the beet work. One summer a group of Cadizado High School "kids" were hired to hoe the beets.

Jim grew up on the ranch. He recalls that the big barn and other buildings were in "pretty good" shape while his family lived there — although in the house, the kitchen was starting to sag on one side. An average of 20 men were needed to riggle many, many acres of alfalfa, and to do the farm work. All of these men ate three meals a day at a table which nearly filled the main room of the "big" house.

Marcella Pierce-Stephens (of Delta) is 10 years older than her brother Jim. She remembers the huge gardens they always raised each summer. One of her jobs was to go to the garden early in the mornings and gather the vegetables for the daily meals. She washed the radishes, onions, lettuce and other vegetables for the meal. She wonders today how her mother managed to bake so much bread, pies and cakes, and cook so much meat and vegetables to amply feed so many men — in addition to doing the family washing without modern conveniences. One or two girls helped during the summers, but the mother had the responsibility of all of the work.

It is believed that the crash of 1929 and subsequent financial reverses of the owners brought in to the old Bar-I Ranch, at that time in the possession of the Stockham brothers. The ranch went into receivership and a chattel dispersal sale was held to dispose of the sheep, about 15 teams of draft horses and all kinds of farm and haying machinery.

Tab Pierce came out of the experience with some machinery, four head of horses and about 100 sheep. Jim remembers bidding \$5 which bought his favorite old saddle horse.

The Pierce family left the ranch in about 1932. It is believed that the next ranch foreman was Jim Doyle and Oscar Coffey was his partner some of the time. After the Doyle move to Bone Creek, Ottis Corvill and family took over the ranch management.

The spread was put up for sale by the district court in the spring of 1939. Ralph Grising's bid was accepted. He retained part of the water for his fruit ranch on Antelope Hill but sold the Bar-I Ranch and all of the landward to Leon and Marie Jordan of Hetchkiss. The Jordans brought 500 ewes with lambs when they moved to their new ranch. Later they bought 1572.66 acres in the Kilkian pasture on the side of Grand Mesa, and 1149.34 acres on the Muddy watershed, for sheep pastures. The ranch and all of the pastures were paid for when Leon died March 13, 1964. Art and Mary Scott had joined the Jordans in 1944 and they all worked together on ranch and sheep management. Leon took Art in as a full one-third partner. Now, due to poor health of the owners, the ranch property may be liquidated.



SAM LOVETT



ADOPTED DAUGHTER AMANDA JOHNSON



MRS. SAM (KATE) LOVETT

GEORGE O. STATES

George O. and Carrie States with three children, Gilbert, Charles and Liah from Michigan joined other members of the States and Carle families in Eckert in 1885. They settled on 48 acres south of Eckert, which later became part of the Act Starr ranch. This flat land was covered with sage and crooked brush and there were also rocks to pick before crops could be planted. George was a Seventh-day Adventist minister and spent about six months out of each year working for the church in various places.

In 1937 Gilbert States wrote a series of articles for the Delta County Tribune in which he stated: While the neighbors were improving their land, Father was out preaching, trying to improve men's souls. He held tent meetings in Moorhead and Crawford, as well as working for the church in eastern Colorado and later in Wyoming, Arizona and California.

Gilbert wrote that his father planned work on the homestead that his young boys could do during his absence, such as grubbing brush, picking rocks and caring for the growing crops. The family accompanied him on some of his ministry endeavors.

Before the Eckert Post Office was established, a man by the name of W.K. "Art" Hart put a log building at the foot of Cory Creek, around the year 1887. It was appointed postmaster for the new department named "Marion Post Office."

To practice emergency George wrote his family once a week on a penny postage, while he was away preaching. It was Gilbert's job to go to the post office once a week to get the mail and to pick up his father's weekly message.

Like all of the other pioneer children, Gilbert and his brother were barefooted in the summertime, but his dear little mother thought the right time to walk to get the mail was too far to walk without shoes. So for this one day a week Gilbert wore his mother's shoes, and she never benefited. This took courage on her part because it was the "year of the rattlesnakes." One was found under the tracks of her sewing machine. (This incident was taken from Gilbert's history.)

George brought his broom-making outfit with him from Michigan. He raised broomcorn and made it into brooms. This was an old profession for him as this was how he had paid expenses for himself and family while he was a student at Battle Creek College several years before coming to Delta County. The finished brooms were sewed into bundles of a dozen each, and taken to market.

Several times of going with his father on several occasions to sell or peddle brooms. With the heads of the bundles of brooms in the center of the wagon, and the broom ends to the outside, the load of brooms looked almost like a load of hay. It was a happy day for the family when George was able to trade several dozen brooms at a store in Hutchinson or Delta. Not only was he able to trade for groceries and other provisions, but he usually brought material for Carrie who made clothing for the children — red flannel long-sleeved shirts or dresses.

George usually walked to visit friends and to keep church appointments in Surface Creek and the North Park areas. He was a good friend of the Eves Hutchikins family in the town of Hutchikins and often stayed overnight with them when passing their way.

Once on a following morning, the two friends stood together on the bank of the North Fork of the Garrison River, swollen by melting snow. Eves Hutchikins turned to George and said, "You can't possibly cross the river today. The water is too high and too swift."

Young Pastor States replied, "Come, I have an appointment for a church service at Crawford this evening which I must keep." So saying, he pulled his hat down tight on his head and walked into the swift water, and swam through the muddy, turbulent stream. Upon reaching the opposite bank, he turned and waved to his friend and started walking off toward Crawford.

In 1893 George States moved his family to another claim, this one located northwest of Cedegedee River Creek. His son, Charles, used his homestead right in the area of the Fairview Coal Mine which he discovered. His wife, Anna, homesteaded the hillside where Charles discovered the States Coal Mine in 1965 and the Top Coal Mine in 1937.



GEORGE O. AND CARRIE STATES

Wendell States photo.

The second one, Green Valley, was also operated on States' land. During the winter of 1902 the States family lived in Boulder while the boys attended the university. Gilbert graduated from Denver Medical School and practiced in Utah and Idaho. George followed to rent his ranch near Cedegedee to Irving and Edna Baker of Boulder (parents of the author) and they came to the ranch in the spring of 1903.

After the States' children were grown, George and Carrie went to other places in his church work, but they always called the Cedegedee area home as long as they lived.

FAMILY SETTLERS ON SURFACE CREEK MESA

Among the first settlers to claim land on Surface Creek Mesa were Capt. William Spaulding and his daughter Olive; his sister Mrs. Elizabeth Kimball; John Hart, Frank McKinzie, W.A. Shepherd, John Wilkies, Pierre Settle and John Trickle. Also John Hall, James Swell, Mrs. Eugenie Kenesic and four sons, Will, Harold, Coe and Jim.

A short time later the number of settlers were increased by the arrival of John Brown, Jonathan New, Alfred Beardsley, Erick Johnson, Wm. Fiser, and Jesse Hart, also Frank Castle, Henry Teasdale, Adolbert States, Richard Griffin, John Griffin, John Young, William and Richard Foster, Charles Estes, William Rowen, Fred Burritt and Frank Retz. Before the year 1900 arrived there were many more settlers.

John Hart camped first on the creek, just below the location of present Cedegedee, but he and Frank McKinzie claimed the land in Hart Basin. Capt. Spaulding and Mrs. Kenesic both claimed land along Surface Creek, south of the present site of Eckert. These two places are still owned and operated by members of their respective families.

Henry Stolte and J.H. Wetmore set out orchards north of Cedegedee in 1885. In 1904 they each sent a box of red Bergholmianer apples to the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri.

James W. Swanson was an early settler with 160 acres in farmland south of the hill where the Fairview Schoolhouse was later built. He sent Wolf River apples to the World's Fair. His apple trees were still bearing this variety many years after he sold the property.

Another entry next to the Fair was the last of a 1,400-pound bear, killed by Peter Mundry on his ranch on lower Tongue Creek. It is not known whether any of these entries received prizes.

The name of the man who built the first long Cory Crade is not known, but it is remembered that for a price of \$200 he built it wide enough for a wagon to travel on. Although the grade has been widened and improved, the general direction of the road he built is still in use.

CHARLES ESTES JOINS SURFACE CREEK



Charles E. Estes

When Charles R. Estes came to Delta County, little did he think his two of horses would lead him to meet members of a outlaw gang similar to one that had visited him and his parents when he was a boy in the state of Missouri.

However, shortly before the famous bank robbery in Delta in 1893, Estes became acquainted with the members of the McCarty gang that staged the holdup. To avoid suspicion, these men worked in the area as cowboys for the big cattle outfits. They had thoroughbred horses and kept them in excellent physical condition. The animals were beautiful and swift of foot.

Charles Estes was particularly smitten with one of the horses, and he did his best to buy the horse from the owner, McCarty, who refused to sell any price. They were three members of the outlaw gang. One of them escaped by out-running a local posse. The other two were killed by a local hardware dealer, Ray Simpson. In the melee, the horse Estes coveted was wounded, and later died to death on Delta's Main Street. Estes explored the death of the beautiful animal, but wanted no sympathy on the two deceased bandits.

So it was that when Estes met members of the McCarty gang, it was the second time he had a passing acquaintance with notorious outlaws. As previously stated, the first time was in his native Missouri.

He was born in Springfield, Mo., Nov. 22, 1866. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Estes. While he was still a young boy, his mother died three strangers in her home. Mrs. Estes guessed their identity. She told them she knew their mother, Mrs. Samsell. They admitted they were the James brothers, well-known outlaws and Bob Ford. To repay the Estes family for their hospitality, they received a \$10 gold piece on the table from each of the outlaws.

The Richard Estes family left Missouri by covered wagon for Colorado July 5, 1879, in the company of several other families. On the way, young Charles saw his first Indian at Wichita, Kan. A month after they left Missouri, the travelers arrived at Canon City — just in time to be caught in the excitement of a jail break.

With his father and brothers, Estes started a freight line from Canon City to Basala Vista and established another one at Leadville.

Around the year 1881, the family moved to Grandiose where they bought land and constructed a house near the Thornton Ranch. At this writing, a large portion of that ranch is being subdivided west of Highway 125. The development is known as Castle Mountain. Part of the time the family lived northwest of the area at Yewa. There the team got so deep that they had to get their framework from the tree tops.

Later they moved to the North Fork valley, and in 1887 the family settled in the Surface Creek Valley.

On April 12, 1896, Charles Estes married Cecelia Douvane. They were the parents of nine children.

For over 25 years Estes rode the range for the Bar-I Ranch and ran cattle for them from Crystal Creek to Alkali.

He was deputy water commissioner for many years under H.C. Cady and Charles Ludwick.

Old-timers remember when Estes helped care for a sick cow or horse — many a man benefited in a horse trade through Estes' knowledge and experience.

The long-time resident also handled the first load of lumber to build the Eckert Baptist Church.

The children have all scattered now, since their parents are gone, except a daughter, Mrs. Robert Bailey of Eckert. Her name Katherine (Kate) was for an old family friend, Mrs. Kate Lovett of Cedegedee.

THE FIRST GRAND MESA LODGE

William Alexander built the first hotel on Grand Mesa around the year 1889. An Englishman, William Radcliff, bought the lodge from him in 1896 and obtained a lease on nearby lakes. His plan was to preserve the fishing rights on these lakes for just his friends and guests. So he posted NO FISHING signs to keep out local fishermen.

People in Surface Creek Valley had used these fishing spots since their first arrival in the area, and they resented an outsider coming in and closing them. To discourage poachers, Radcliff hired a guard, which further angered the local citizenry.

They were incensed when their neighbor, William Norack was caught trespassing and Radcliff's game warden murdered him.

During the night the killer, named McKee, rode to Delta and surrendered to the sheriff who placed him under heavy guard in the courthouse where a hearing was in progress. Norack kept arriving in Delta all evening precipitating an ominous feeling that the dead man's wife friends were planning to raid the courthouse. This prompted deputies' decision to smuggle their prisoner out of the room and hide him elsewhere, hoping thus to prevent a lynching.

At 8 o'clock that night, while the court was still in session Deputy Weston, unobeyed, took his prisoner down the stairs and out the back door. There he placed him in the custody of James Lanier (who brought his family from Texas in 1894), justice of the peace at Eckert. Lanier had a team and buggy waiting, and at a crack of the whip he and his prisoner sped away to the Smith ranch, two miles from Delta up the Thompson River. McKinney remained hidden at the ranch until the next morning.

In the meantime, at about 12:30 a.m. after county court was adjourned, a mob of about 150 armed men smashed into the building. They broke every door in their search for the prisoner, but to no avail. The following morning about 100 armed men rode from Surface Creek to Alexander Lake Lodge on Grand Mesa where they ordered all of Radcliff's men to leave and to take their belongings with them. Fortunately for him the Englishman was not there.

After the hired help and families were gone, the mobsters set fire to Radcliff's hotel and cabins. The fish hatchery, boats and nets that did not exclusively belong to the Englishman were left unharmed.

While he was on his way back to Delta, the absent Radcliff was met in Montrose by Judge Alfred R. King, who told of the reception committee awaiting him on his return to Delta. The Englishman heard the warning and never again returned to Delta County.

McKinney's trial was held in Durango. Consisted of voluntary manslaughter, he was sentenced to eight years in the state penitentiary. No further record of him exists in Delta County.



Delta County Historical Society photo
Grand Mesa Hotel 1894

BUSINESS ROOMS IN CEDARHEDGE

Otto Bowen wrote that when he came to Cedarhedge in 1904 as editor of the Surface Creek Champion, he could count on one hand the number of houses in the settlement. This did not include the home John and Janet Wetsch built on their homestead joining the town on the north. Their first log cabin was built around 1894.

In February, 1906, A.K. Stockham and W.B. Stockham and James Zarnett, the new owners for the Bar I Ranch met with representatives of the town to offer a plot of land as part of the town site.

A man by the name of A.E. Bowen of Denver was sold six lots (from the present Brooks Service Station east on Cedar Mesa Street to the corner) for this consideration he would build four brick business houses. The largest, a double building would be constructed with 75 feet frontage (the present Brooks Service Warehouse). The rest side of the building would be a store. A new bank would occupy the northwest corner room, with a mortuary in the center and the Post Office on the southeast corner. The other buildings Bowen built were across the street west of the bank building (now Van Arman's Variety Store) and across the street to the north (now Palmer and Company).

The town of Cedarhedge was steadily growing with the bread of construction now on Cedar Mesa Street instead of on Main Street. Dr. Bolton's building and the hotel were built east to the Champion office on Cedar Mesa Street.

J.C. Rowbottom from England took over the management of the Cedarhedge Hotel in May, 1907. The hotel was enlarged and prepared for many years under his management. The building was torn down before the new Post Office was built.

A report in the Champion of the businesses in Cedarhedge in 1907 included the following: all types of stores, the Methodist and Baptist sects have large congregations and assistant ministers; two physicians cover the field; there are two really first-class flourishing banks; one restaurant, a bakery, harness shop, and amusements enterprises. There is need for a salaried doctor and no doubt a first class lawyer would do well.

Around 1909 there was a prospect for a railroad line to go from Seneca or Appleton, in the lower end of the valley (near Astor) to Cedarhedge and farther on to the coal mines. The capital was promised and most of the



The first store in Cedarhedge was built in 1900 for Joe Hoaghe and Son. It was known for many years as the Wick Store, for its first owners Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Wick and son Vernon.

right-of-ways were secured. It would be called "The Fruit Belt Railroad Company." The promoters added that the railroad would bring prosperity to the valley by giving fruit growers and coal mines a close path from which to ship. And it was predicted that the railroad would bring in new settlers. This dream never came true, but the building of good roads accomplished the results ribbons of steel did not.

Cedarhedge held an election to incorporate in March, 1907, and in April the first municipal election was held. The question of whether the laws should be "wet or dry" was voted on separately; the vote was 55 dry and 23 wet. There were 127 registered voters in the town.

M.S. Blanchard was elected the mayor and Law Dolph was appointed marshal and overseer of the streets. Trustees were W.B. Smithson, Sam Lovell, Tom Dicks, Joe Higgins, E.S. Coblin and L.C. Bolton.

Dr. Bolton was a continuous member of the city council from 1907 until 1948, except for World War I years.

As items in the special edition of the Surface Creek Champion in 1909 we find the following report on the progress of the new town: "Although Cedarhedge is only four years old, it now has 3 general stores, 1 hardware store, 2 hotels, 1 bank, 1 newspaper, 1 drug store, 1 millinery establishment, 2 livery barns, 1 restaurant, 3 blacksmith shops, 1 carpenter shop, 1 single millard flour factory, 1 feed store, 1 meat market, 1 barbers shop, 2 barber shops, 3 physicians, 1 lumber yard, 2 church buildings, 1 furniture store, 1 undertaking room, 2 real estate offices, 1 public hall and 7 fraternal societies."

"The best grade of coal on the Western Slope crops out of the hills at the edge of the valley from two to five miles from Cedarhedge. Veins range from 3 to 20 feet thick. The coal sells at the mine from \$1.25 to \$1.75. There is an abundance of wood, cedar, pine, and spruce which can be gotten from the forests for the expense of hauling it."

Building material — "Lumber can be obtained from the mill on Grand Mesa for \$20 per thousand; 3 blacksmith shops, an abundant supply of stoves for building. Permits for timber, logs for building a house can be obtained free and logs and licks can be hauled to the saw mill and sawed into lumber for \$10 per thousand."

The first physician to locate in Cedarhedge was Dr. Irwin Bergan. After he left he took post graduate work in New York City, then spent many years in Alaska, but returned to Delta County to live several years before his death.

Another doctor came to Cedarhedge in 1904, an eccentric gentleman with a long beard, who stayed a short time. Dr. A.F. Beyer also stayed for a while.

Dr. L.C. Bolton and family arrived in Cedarhedge in May, 1906 from Kenosha, two years after he finished medical school. After his retirement he continued to make his home and raised cattle several years.

Dr. T. Herbert Aust, born in Britton, England in 1874, came to Cedarhedge with wife and two sons in 1908. He practiced until his death in 1948.

Dr. F.H. Bergan, a brother to Irwin Bergan, was one of the first dentists in Cedarhedge.

Other dentists have been Dr. Oscar Overman, Dr. A.P. Darley, Dr. F.F. Clark, Dr. Joe Simpson, Dr. Walter Simon, Dr. Earl Lasingham.

Dr. C.T. Fry built the Cedarhedge Medical Clinic in 1948. Most of the time he has worked alone, but Dr. Williamson was with him one year and Dr. Howard Finke has been associated with him part time for several years.

The Oct. 1, 1910 issue of the "Champion" listed the following doctors as practicing in Cedarhedge: "Dr. Harry A. Strick is in town looking after the needs of his patients." Dr. W.J. Clark, Physician and Surgeon, lived up living quarters and an office in the old lumber yard office (south of the fire station); O.P. Moss was a dentist; L.C. Bolton, Physician and Surgeon in office opposite the bank; Francis A. Hamilton M.D., Physician and Surgeon, office in Cedarhedge Hotel. Dr. F.F. Lewis, the jeweler and Optician opened his establishment in the Morse building. Dr. T. Herbert Aust practiced in Cedarhedge at that time too.



OTTO AND JANE PETERSON

From Utah, Otto and Jane Peterson with their youngsters arrived in Delta County in 1882, in time to see the soldiers march Indians to the new reservation. The family secured a 40-acre claim, southeast of present Gary, in the Gunnison Valley, so-called. With the intention of raising fuel for his family, Otto brought along several fruit trees that he set out near his new cabin.



(Left) Eric Peterson Alnidge bore daughter of Otto and Jane Peterson is believed to be the first white child to be born in the Gunnison Valley.

Nina Peterson Alnidge, daughter of Otto and Jane Peterson is believed to be the first white child born in the Cedarhedge area.

These apple, peach, plum, apricot and cherry trees are believed to have been the first ones planted in Delta County. A large percentage of the original trees produced fruit for many years.

On September 15, 1882, a daughter, Ernest (always called Eric) was born to the Petersons. She is believed to be the first white child born in the Gunnison Valley.

Accounts of the Petersons had been with the Mormon migration in 1857. Otto was three years old when his mother and his family made the long trip. Otto and Jane traveled Utah, Colorado and Arizona before they finally settled in the upper end of Surface Creek Valley, autumn of 1885.

Otto pre-empted on three 40-acre plots, ranging from what is the west edge of the Cedarhedge Park to the east line of the Aust property. He took his team to the foothills to get out logs to build a cabin. Before he could go back for the rest of the logs, the winter snowstorms closed the trails, and he built a cabin half as large as he had planned. Although only about eight by ten feet in size, the cabin was snug and warm. Games were being up and used as a door, and sacks covered the window. There was a bunk bed for the parents. The children were bedded down on a bear rug and over hides that covered the dirt floor.

Otto's father, born into the royal family of Denmark (fisherhered who he married a commoner) would have been horrified to see his son's primitive dwelling. However, Otto continued to add improvements to the family residence. To the original cabin, he built two more rooms and a fireplace before their second baby, Nina, was born, June 5, 1886. She is believed to be the first white child to be born in the Surface Creek Valley.

The year following her birth, 1887, saw their first cabin. Otto built a two-story log house for his growing family.

South of the Peterson homestead, land was owned by John Langens, while that to the east and south comprised the holdings of Henry Kahler, and also the Bar I Ranch. East of the Peterson home to what is now Cedarhedge, there was no road — only a trail through the trees and sagebrush.

In later years, Nina told many stories about those early days of living on the edge of a Cañon Empire whose members did not appreciate the encroachment of settlers on the open land that they claimed as their own domain. Newsletters faced many hardships. Fences were cut and range cattle found their way into gardens and fields. There was tension, but serious trouble was averted.

The tiny groves near the Peterson homestead was evidence of the tall timber family paid for daring to pioneer in a new country. Within a period of a few years, they lost two little girls, infant twins, and one of another pair of two babies. Nevertheless, they did survive nine children. They were Otto, Eric, Marj, Wava, Ada, six surviving twin John, Archie, Vern and Charles. In addition, they found a place in their hearts and home to take in Bob and Albert Alnidge after their parents died.

The new homestead land produced bountifully. Jane knew that Otto planted rye, he cut it with a hand scythe. He used it up with an ax sick, and the children learned to tie the grain in bundles. With a hand fall, the grain was threshed, picked over by hand then taken down Tongue Creek to a mill. There it was ground into flour for bread. Game and fish on Grand Mesa furnished meat for the family. Trees they set out supplied them with fuel. With milk cows, chickens, and bees, the greater part of the family living was produced at home. This meant that everyone in the group had to contribute something, if the members were to enjoy a well-stocked larder. So there was plenty of work to be done and, like all pioneer children, the Peterson youngsters "learned their chores" at a very early age.

Although learning, as far as a formal education was concerned, was not compulsory in those days, the Petersons saw to it that their children attended school. The older boys went to Chipmunk School and later to Lockie, two miles away.

Before the turn of the century, Otto circulated a petition to build a school at Cedarhedge. Speaking of his own brood, he told his wife, "We have almost enough of our own for a school." So he and other fathers in the community joined forces and succeeded in building the first schoolhouse in Cedarhedge.

In his own family, all of the members were musically inclined — — — and sometimes they played the fiddle, the girls played the organ and Mother Jane taught them all to sing. Not only did they provide musical entertainment at home, but in later years some of them played for community dances. One of the great-grandsons, Jerry Patton, sings second



The home of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Peterson and family, one mile west of Cedarhedge.

teor in the world-known Kings Harolds Quartet on the radio program, Voice of Prosperity.

Eventually, the time came when the children asserted their own personalities. Two of the Peterson girls married Aldridge brothers. Evie and Charles were married in 1901. Nina and Les's wedding took place five years later in 1906. At one time, Nina was a County correspondent for the Surface Creek News. Artistic, versatile, she was a poet and composer of songs. She also did creative writing and painted many beautiful pictures. Her sister, Ada, and husband Lloyd Patten owned and operated the Red Canyon coal mine until their retirement. The Peterson boys, Otto, Matt, Archie and Gene spent all of their lives at Cedarvale. Two others, Ven and Ben, moved to California. Gene lived in the old horseplace until he died. All of the Peterson children are gone now.

Miss Peterson Jr. was a very capable Game Warden for many years on both the local and state level.

ALDRIDGE FAMILY HISTORY



CHARLES ALDRIDGE

Alfred and Eliza Aldridge brought their family to Delta County in the early 1880's. For several years they lived in the upper Surface Creek Valley. Alfred was a charter member of the Eckert Masonic Lodge.

The Aldridges had seven children and both parents died while their offspring were youngsters. Children were Leonard, Bert, Lita, Nora, Alec, Walter and Charles who were separated at their parents' deaths. The younger ones were taken into the homes of different families in the new country.

At that time, Charles was 15 years old. He spent most of his time running a trapline at the foot of Grand Mesa, or shooting rabbits to sell. In 1901, when he was 24 years old and Evie (Owens) Peterson was 21, they were married. During late summer and early fall of the next 12 years "they" worked on ranches on Grand Mesa, he with horses and scoping building up dams of several natural lakes and reservoirs; and she, working for the workers. In addition, she tended to their two little girls. On the Battlement, Charles helped to make several ranches with fish. The ranchers were known as the Grubbs at that time. He started in buckets of spawning fish to dump into the reservoirs.

Charles and Evie had ranchland eastward of Cedarvale and raised alfalfa and horses for many years. Charles often sold Peckeson teams for \$500 a pair. The ranch and patterns on the north side of Grand Mesa are now owned by his daughter, Christine Hills and family.

The name of Christine Hills was substituted by Grand Mesa Caveliers for the Queen of the West essay contest, sponsored by the Montrose County Caveliers. She has lived up to the honor conferred upon her.

Husband Roy Hills and she were married May 2, 1934 and had five children. They were Charlie, Lee, Roy Jr., Vera and Johanna. The Hills couple bought a ranch adjoining her parents', Charles and Evie Aldridge.

Between November 1956 and May 1957 Christine through death lost her parents, husband, and sister. Since that time she and an assumed son, Sam, have successfully operated the hay and cattle ranch. In the same window, their cattle live in their pasture on the side of Grand Mesa. Christine is much admired for her ability to operate the ranch after her bereavement.

WHO'S IN A NAME!

Names that often were a source of amusement to newcomers were given to three creeks on the Tugue Creek drainage. They were Blue Nose, Doughspoon and Dirty George.

Blue Nose was so named because the first settler on the creek was a native of Finland. The creek is generally called Oak Creek.

Doughspoon got its name from a big spoon that may have been stolen by Indians from some white wagon train and later, the spoon was lost along the creek. Or, it may have been lost by a trapper years before the settlers came to live country. At any rate, the spoon was found near the creek by early settlers who exclaimed in surprise that it was "accursed's doughspoon."

Dirty George was named for an exceedingly dirty man who first settled on his banks. It is remembered that Mrs. James Stiel, perhaps hoping to encourage him to develop cleaner habits, once gave him a box of soap. He promptly returned it to her saying, "You're better keep this, Ma'am. I ain't got no use for it."

At the edge of a clearing on upper Surface Creek there is a spot known as Dead Man's Park. The story was told in the early days that a man by the name of Bob Hickman built a small cabin on the edge of the park, at the upper end of Surface Creek, above the old Hinckle Ranch.

When Hickman came to the valley, he told people he was 55 years old. Just before he died, 35 years later, he still claimed to be 35. Oldtimers remembered him as having white hair and a matching long handlebar mustache.

One day in the winter of 1884 a stranger drifted into the valley, and Hickman took him on as a partner in trapping and cutting posts. Towards spring one day "Old Bob" knocked at the door of one of the homestead cabins, asking for the man of the house. The woman who answered the knock on the door became frightened at Hickman's wild appearance. She told him her husband had gone over a nearby hill. Hickman went to look for him. When the woman's husband returned the evening, he told his wife he had just buried a man, Old Bob's partner.

Hickman explained to several of the settlers that he and his partner had quarreled over the division of money received for selling fish and posts. His partner, Hickman said, made a lunge for the door to get his gun - Hickman had no alternative but to hit him with a stool he had in the cabin. The pioneers got the stranger's grave at the edge of the clearing and buried him in the spot known as Dead Man's Park. Hickman built his permanent home at the foot of the present Cedar Mesa Grade. The one room cabin was constructed with windows on two sides, and was furnished with a stove for heat and to cook his meals and a built-in bunk bed.

The table was not only used as a place where he ate his food, but where friends gathered for a game of cards. Some said he was a professional gambler and it was reported that sometimes the man played for high stakes. He kept a flock of chickens which the Cedar children took care of and whenever he was gone overnight, which was not often.

In his later years he fell and fractured his hip. Dr. L.C. Bolton took care of the broken bone and his old cranial "Old Blackie," stayed with him until he was able to get around again.

After his death Dr. Bolton became owner of the property, which is now the Surface Creek Saddle Club arena and grounds. A beautiful old lamp from the Hickman cabin became a prized possession of Mrs. Dolson. She had it wired for electricity and it was kept on the grand piano in the Bolton living room. The piano still belongs to the Bolton family but is loaned to the Cedarvale Mesa Music temple, and the lamp, by Edna Bolton-Hick of Delta.

J.J. Collins built a cabin and campsite where Apple Heights Motel is now located, six miles north of Cedarvale, on the road to Grand Mesa. In 1904 he brought a head of lettuce to town and showed it to Clyde Brewer at the Surface Creek Champion office. The editor reported, "The head weighed six pounds and measured 28 inches across and the lettuce was crisp and tender and had a fine taste."

BREWER GIVES BEST HISTORY SOURCE



Clyde R. Brewer

The one person who did more than anyone else to preserve the history of Surface Creek Country was Clyde W. Brewer, editor of the Surface Creek Champion, a weekly newspaper for 43 years.

G.T. Rawalt, the editor of the Paola newspaper, bought a printing plant from the Dickinson Tribune in 1904. Part of the equipment went to the Paola office, and the rest he brought to Cedarvale to start a newspaper. In the first edition, he put in a news item, stating that Mr. C.W. Brewer, a competent printer and newspaper man would be in charge of the Surface Creek Champion, as the newspaper was then called.

Many years later, in 1942, after he had sold the newspaper to the Delta County Independent, Brewer jotted down the history of the paper in his own handwriting — which is a treasureous keepsake of his family.

He states, "The first edition of the newspaper was printed on July 25, 1904, but it wasn't the next day in time to complete folding and mailing the first issue of the CHAMPION." About a year after the newspaper was established, Brewer jotted down the business.

The first issue was printed in a tent as the building was not ready, but a very short time later the plant was set up in a small building, west of the present Cedarvale Lumber Plant. This building was later occupied by Mrs. Laird as a home. A few months later, the printing equipment was moved into half of a big building, next door to the first one. About three years later the permanent home of the Champion was built (west of Sheriff's building, now occupied by the Cedarvale Floor Covering shop) and again the printing press was moved into a large room with plenty of space to work.

The only child of Mr. and Mrs. V.G. Brewer, Clyde, was born in Garrison and received his education there and learned the printing trade while working for Charles Adams.

The first printing press in Cedarvale consisted of a Washington hand press, a few boxes of type and a small job press. Of course, all of the type was set by hand. The first paper he ordered had what was then called patterned news on the inside two pages of the folded sheets. On them were what was usually a serial story, many short national news items, jokes, and advertising for patented medicines, such as Lydia Pinkham's Tonic, baking powder or various brands of medicines for various ailments. The front and back pages were left blank for the local ad news. Sometimes there was an extra folded sheet of patented news, stories, etc. He tried to get away from this type of paper, but his subscribers liked all the extra benefits, so he kept with it.

The new building had more room and new equipment of various kinds were added from time to time. This was the happy time for the office, jobs were so plentiful that he employed three helpers. The crowning piece of equipment was the linotype which was added for the first time in June 26, 1924.

Brewer married Miss Alpha Prouty in Delta in 1908, and as their children grew old enough, each one took his or her turn helping in the

printing office. Their oldest daughter, Aita (Byssus) helped longer than any of the others.

In the last copy of the newspaper he printed, "All the old copies of the Champion have been retained at Cedarvale for the benefit of the community and will eventually be placed in a permanent file (They are in the Town Hall). These files are complete as during the time of the paper was printed not one single issue is missing. Some may have been sent out later in case of an emergency, but they were printed each week. The files are the issues which have been bound and will remain in Cedarvale, as they form an accurate and complete history of Cedarvale and the Surface Creek Communities."

Brewer had a very pleasing decorative style of writing and seldom told a news story in 10 words when he could use more.

Mrs. Brewer very graciously offered these files as well as other papers and pictures for use in compiling the history of Surface Creek Country and many news items and quotations will be taken from them.



First office, 1904

Second office, 1904



Third office 1906-1943

Are you satisfied with the undertaking service you are getting? If not call H.K. Correll, day or night. I ask for but one price! Can get to Cedarvale as quick as anybody from Delta. Funerals, Burials and Ranges. H.K. Correll.

Early in 1911 Sam Lovett bought two lots on the corner of Center and South Fifth Streets and was granted a permit by the Town Council to build a two-story house. He later changed his mind and built only one story. There was a garage attached to the house on the back facing Center Street. The corner blocks for the construction of these buildings L.E. Delph made.

After; this time Lovett drilled a flowing well. It was reported that the water in the well could not be lowered by using two pumps and a bucket. In February, 1910, Sam Lovett received a contract to carry the mail from Delta to Cedarvale and back over the route in July. Lovett put up his new Standard-Dixton automobile to carry passengers during eight or nine months of the year. At first, the mail was not carried in the automobile.

ALPHA BREWER



Mrs. Alpha Brewer, wife of Clyde M. Brewer.

Like most youngsters in her childhood years, Alpha Brewer enjoyed horseback riding. Without fail, she covered many miles around the vicinity of her home. Not until the family moved to the Grandpaigne Valley did she hear about other outlaws in Paradise. This was when she was ready to start high school and lived in Delta. There Alpha enjoyed participating in the activities, and later joined the Delta chapter of the Rebekah Lodge.

When Alpha was 10 years old her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Proby, moved from Delta, Missouri, to Newark, Colorado. When the family moved to Paradise Valley a few years later, there were only two ways to travel, by wagon or horseback.

One summer when Alpha came to Cedarvale to help care for Mrs. Joe Rogerts (wife of the owner of the first store here) there was a Rebekah lodge. It was there she met her future husband, Clyde Brewer. He graduated the first Cedarvale newspaper, established in 1904. He never missed printing an issue.

After their marriage, they lived in several different homes before buying an acreage southwest of Cedarvale. There they set out an orchard, which in 1927 their daughter, Ada, and husband, Webb Boyce, own. When Brewer realized that it took the newspaper business to support the fruit trees, the couple sold the trees and land and moved into a home on Fifth Street where Alpha still resides.

Alpha never helped Clyde in the newspaper office. She was the only woman's work who didn't, as she discovered when she attended a convention of small town news editors. Apparently, Clyde wanted it that way, and, besides, few small children kept her busy enough.

The Brewers grew to be a close-knit family, enjoying much in their life together. When the children were small, nearly every Sunday would find them all going someplace together. With the baby in the car and each child carrying something toward a picnic dinner, they headed to the footballs near town.

In 1921 they purchased their first car and took a trip to it almost every Sunday. They could go much further than before, after visiting Alpha's parents in Gunnison, or driving to Grand Mesa. Looking back, Alpha says that they enjoyed their car more than most people do because they had so many pleasant trips together as a family unit. Their one long trip was to Yellowstone National Park in 1928.

Each year, July and August were hectic months for Alpha and she found that while she was on Grand Mesa she was almost free of the clutter of her home. They built a cabin there in 1921 when she and the children spent several weeks during the period when hay fever was prevalent at home. On weekends, Clyde joined them and in those weeks the family bonds were strengthened. Alpha was accustomed to take the children on hikes and picnics, pointing out to them the beauties of nature. The baby went along too -- in Alpha's arms.

She enjoyed the slow life in Cedarvale but sometimes missed the cultural advantages to be had in larger towns. She looked forward to the Chautauque arrival, a company that for several years came to

Cedarvale each summer. A big tent was pitched in a grassy lot, north of the present Anderson's grocery store parking lot, where performances were staged. Alpha sent the children to the morning program, but almost everyone else attended afternoon or evening shows. Babies slept in their buggies or played in the grass while their mothers listened to Hawaiian music, band programs and musical plays. Lecture courses given in the winter time at Cedar Hall were backed by local businessmen and well-attended.

When Clyde died, Alpha became a business woman in 1946. The back porch with a huge rolltop desk became her office. She was bookkeeper for Grand Mesa water users and all other water companies that ran water through their ditches. For many years, it took about all of her time during the summer and all part-time the rest of the year to keep track of the water users and maintain up-to-date books.

Alpha still lives in the family home. She stays active in the Rebekah Lodge, the Woman's Library Club, church and of course, with her family.

FIRST ECKERT STORE



First Eckert store was built in 1894

The first store in Eckert, built in 1894, was operated by Adeline States who was responsible for naming of the settlement. Eckert being the maiden name of his wife. Mr. States was also the first Postmaster of the first Post Office in Eckert, established Oct. 27, 1891.

He was succeeded in the office by A.L. Reynolds who with New Castle bought the grocery and dry goods business from him. Mr. Castle sold his interest in the store to W.E. Stone. This store has served the community since it was first opened by Mr. States.

The Eckert Store has been operated successfully by A.L. Reynolds and Castle; Reynolds and King brothers; Arthur and Lawrence; Frank McKane and Roy Raiten; Carl Newton, Roy Hayes, Ed Lampert, Bob Morris, Miles Edgshar, Ray, Mildred Tandy, Roy Anderson, Edgshar. The Bernard Daves bought the building in 1970 and sold to Joyce Bittel in 1975. About 1919 A.L. Reynolds operated the Eckert Store and opened a creamery. Butter packed there was sold in Hedden Stone town under the name Grand Mesa Gold.

The creamery later became the Surface Cove Co-operative Creamery which after a few years became associated with the Challenge Creamery Association.

E.B. Bull received a large number of premiums for apples he exhibited in apple shows in different parts of the United States in 1912. He entered the Grand Staircase National Horticultural Congress and received the following awards: 1 and 2 on Champion apples; 1 and 2 on Beach or Apple of Gunnison; 1 on Black Bee Devo; 2 and 3 on Senators. He received a special prize on best Black Bee Devo apples entered and his award was 25 cents of this type of fruit.

Woodsmen of the World and Warden of Woodcraft Lodges were instituted in the hall above Myers and Doughty's store, in July 1904. Both lodges were active for many years. The women's group placed the first community Home Home Festival in 1935. Later the Festival became a Cedarvale Community Fair for several years.

ROADS

The dust from the Indian ponies' hooves hadn't settled where many of the early settlers came to Surface Creek Mesa. It is told that most of the first settlers came from the surrounding mining camps and were accustomed with hardships, yet they found the Surface Creek country wild and unprosperous.

For one thing, there were no bridges over the Gunnison River. People coming from Delta usually loaded or ferried across at the sites of either the present North Delta or the Cory bridges.

Of course, there were no roads, only trails -- except for a wagon road known as the Government Road, which spanned the river near the present Cory bridge. After climbing up onto Surface Creek Mesa, the road rose or less followed the winding course of Surface Creek to Grand Mesa. This road was built by U.S. government troops from the military camp north of Oursay to Military Park and Lake Lake. Such camps were maintained there for a time, to prevent South the Indians from joining the White River Ute tribes which were responsible for the massacre at the Meeker settlement in 1879.

The Government road was declared a county road in July 2, 1883, by the Board of Delta County commissioners. In 1886 the farmers of Surface Creek Mesa built and paid for the first bridge over the Gunnison River near Cory. This bridge was replaced with a wider modern one in 1937-38.

The number of Surface Creek roads and bridges increased with the growth of the communities and as the need grew for them. With the passing years all roads, particularly the old government road, were improved somewhat from time to time.

In 1921 the main road from the Gunnison River (Cory bridge) to Cedarvale was gravelled. In 1929 the first pavement was laid from the river to Eckert. In 1952 the road was widened to meet state highway requirements and a new pavement laid as far as the town of Eckert. This road was widened and paving work completed in Cedarvale in 1956. New Highway 65 over Grand Mesa was built and black-topped in the early 1960's.

In 1965 a study was made to re-trace the old military road over Grand Mesa. Several pioneers' sons who grew up riding the range and roaming Grand Mesa supplied the following information.

The military road from the Gunnison River followed the general direction of Surface Creek. From the Cedarvale community it took a northerly direction, past the old Great Park homestead to the early day Ben Reed at West Hattie Ranch.

The road crossed to the west side of Milk Creek near the old Kerns cabin, around Bart Knob and then followed the general direction of the jeep road to the top of Grand Mesa. It came out at the south end of present Tricky Park Reservoir, crossed the south end of it (which is now a water) and reached to Military Park.

Old-time cowboys mentioned some of the posts set up by the soldiers to control horses at the park. It is believed that the last post was taken out and used for firewood by campers. The road to Reddy's post in the Alexander Lake area, branched off to the left at Military Park.

Mort Beckley said about taking several hundred head of steers over the road to Colburn in the early 20's. The best part of it is classed as a very poor jeep road. Mort said on the way, they passed present Big Creek and Barkley Reservoir and then literally dropped off the rim of Grand Mesa to the Colburn country.

Randall He found a soldier's belt buckle at Military Park and Bob Robinson said he found the point of an Indian spear there in 1928.

New retired as district water commissioner and living in Cedarvale, Bob said his father, July B. Robinson, was a forest ranger on the Colburn side from 1909 until he was transferred to Cedarvale in 1921. An old trapper by the name of Hedwig told July that the military road was traveled by Kit Carson from the U.S. government prior to the time the Indians were taken out of Delta County in 1861-62.

Charles Buzza's parents were early settlers in Harts Basin. He told of traveling the military road many times as a young cowboy, pushing cattle on Grand Mesa. Charles remembered that Al Hitchcock was in



Walt Aldridge and Jim Keller working on the county road one-half mile north of Cedarvale, 1913.

charge of maintaining the military road. It was the only passageway to Grand Mesa for many years.

"Doc" Trickle, wife of Charles Buzzard, remembered going over the road when she was a child. Her paternal grandfather, Frank Trickle, established the Trickle ranch. He owned wild grass hay for his horses on the meadow that was covered with water after the dam was built. It was the early 80's the family spent a winter at the park.

Steve was deep on the Mesa and it lasted well into the year. Mort Beckley said he had seen snow 10 to 12 feet deep there on his birthday, June 3.

FOGS



Emma Fogg

The first son of Nobel and Emma Fogg named Fred was born in the Lovell house in Cedarvale April 22, 1891. He was the first white child born in the new settlement. The Fogg family lived in several different localities in the area, part of the time on the Cedar Park Ranch. They came back to Cedarvale in 1908 and Fred operated a livery barn.

FIRST CEDARVALE HALL

No place was available for public meetings in Cedarvale at the turn of the century. About 1903 a group of civic-minded men in the area formed the Cedarvale Hall Company. It was headed by Harrison Bull, Ed Bull, James Raiten, Fred Burritt and others. Their purpose was to build a hall large enough for community gatherings and fraternal meetings.

The hall was erected north of the present Fire Shop and corner building on Main Street. The frame building was constructed with a large room on the first floor, occupied at various times by a furniture and second hand shop and also a creamery. The second story (large one room hall) was reached by an outside stairway on the south side of the building. The finishing in wainscoting (varnished) made it very attractive. Later, a fire escape was added on the west end of the building.

In this setting, the Cedarvale Hall company sponsored Lyceum Courses -- lectures held once a month in the winter time. In addition, regular dances were held, plays and programs were staged by church, school and community groups; and school graduation ceremonies were held there.

The Cedarvale Champion newspaper reported that Cedarvale had seven fraternal organizations in 1909. Part or all of these groups



The first Cedarvale Hall was built by Cedarvale Hall committee about 1933. Old Fellows bought it in 1925, tore it down in 1941.

probably used the hall. They included: Woodmen of the World, Modern Woodmen, Women of Woodcraft, Foremen, Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, and there may have been others. The Mason Lodge was instituted in Eckhart and was named Eckhart A.F. and A.M. No. 136.

Many dinners and suppers were served in the hall. Food as well as water, was carried up the long flight of outside stairs. In later years there may have been a sink and water, but original operations were carried on for many years without such conveniences.

Knack Belt 100F Lodge was probably instituted in the hall. Perhaps other fraternal groups were too. In the late teens, the Odd Fellows Lodge members started to buy the building. They paid for it on the installment plan and final payment was made about 1925.

In the winter of 1941, the old Cedarvale Hall was torn down. Much of the material was used in the construction of the new 100F hall on the corner of North Third and Cedar Mesa Streets. The building is 86 feet long by 36 feet wide.

In the year that the new Methodist Church was completed, women of the church served 30 dinners in the hall to earn money for their building projects. One of them remembers taking up the dishes, stacking, stringing and cleaning up afterwards. After the dishes were washed, she said, someone would take the pan of hot water out on the fire escape and "give the water a ring."

After the new 100F hall was built, the Masons used it for their meetings until their own Masonic Temple was constructed.

Highlight of winter festivities in December, 1909, on the 23rd day was a grand Christmas Ball, held in Cedarvale Hall. Advertisements of the day hailed it as the "Swirl After" of the season. Guests received printed programs. A three-piece band provided the music, and a turkey supper was served. All of this cost \$1.75 per couple, with dancing included.

Ads appearing in the first copy of the "Surface Creek Champion" in 1894 showed the following services available in the new town: J.F. Began, Physician; F.H. Barger, Dentist; Wm. Hart, Barber Shop and pool hall; Cedarvale Short Order Restaurant; J.F. Bugin, Prop.; Graham and Wilson, blacksmiths and wagon makers; D.T.G. Office, Insurance; Renting Real Estate and Loans; Joe Nagelke, "The Old Reliable Store" general merchandise; Cedarvale Hack Line, E.A. Miller, Prop.; Meat Market, W.A. Travis, Prop.; Fire Insurance, G.T. Rawall, general agent; Livory and Feed Stable, A.E. Miller, Prop.; General Blacksmith, A.E. Miller, Prop.; Cedarvale Drug, T.M. Sney, prop.; Hotel and Ladies House, Wm. Uno and Feed Stable construction, A.E. Miller, prop.; and Cedarvale Hall also connected; Mern and Doughty, General Merchandise Store.

In 1904 the Cedarvale Land and Development Company, under the management of D.T. Gell started plating 35 acres as part of the town site. Land in Cedarvale changed hands several times in many cases appear on the abstracts of present farm owners.

JAMES MCGUGH AND HOTEL

James McGugh bought the first ranch north of Trickle Bridge on Surface Creek, November 8, 1853, from a Mr. Barlow. McGugh built a nice two-story frame house on the property. He had a large family and the children all attended the Trickle School.

The house burned down around 1918. Charles Kiser remembers going from Cedarvale to Delta one day, and seeing the McGugh house on fire. He visited to the house and found the McGugh family eating dinner on the porch, and saw one of the fire. By that time it had made such headway that the blaze could not be extinguished with buckets of water from the well and cistern. The house proved a complete loss. A few years later, Kiser married the McGugh's daughter, Lola.

The Cedarvale Hotel was built about 1924, probably by James McGugh as his name was mentioned in connection with it several times in old news items in the Champion.

In the May, 1907 Champion, we find: "J.C. Robottom from England took over the management of the Cedarvale Hotel. It was enlarged and prospered for many years. Additions were made in 1910, doubling the capacity of the Hotel, by the owner, James McGugh. The work cost about \$7,500. The business so increased under the management Robottom, making the remodeling of the building necessary."

May 1, 1911 - Champion: "Cedarvale Hotel is putting an enlargement to the new addition was built on. A ladies parlor has been fitted up on the upper floor of the new wing, and a writing room was added on the lower floor."

Mr. and Mrs. Robottom and a relative, Miss Harris (who had helped with the operation of the business) lived in the hotel until they retired and moved into the first house north of the pool hall, which they rebuilt.

As McGugh (a son of James) and his wife Pearl came back to Cedarvale in early fall of 1923 and took over the management of the hotel. At that time there were 31 rooms upstairs plus one bathroom. Downstairs there were front and back apartments, in addition to the lobby, dining room and kitchen. A sock cellar had been constructed north of the hotel to use for storing food and vegetables. Jim and Pearl operated the hotel from 1923 until 1937. They moved to their ranch, southwest of Cedarvale where they lived for several years. They then returned to the hotel and managed it from 1940 to 43. Mrs. Winnie Lane was in charge of the hotel for a year in the late '30's. The old hotel building had been vacant for some time and was torn down before the new post office building was constructed to take its place.



Looking west on Cedar Mesa Street from the Bank Corner. Buildings - First National Bank, U.S. Post Office, Cedarvale Hotel about 1915.

The first part of the Cedarvale Hotel was built by J.B. Hillman in 1904. It was later owned and enlarged by J.B. McGugh.

The 1918 census of Delta County showed 13,560 as compared to 4,488 in 1900.

CHARLES WOOD KISER



WILLIAM WINKWORTH KISER

ELLA SHARON WOOD KISER

Charles (Wood) Kiser, 90, son of original settlers in upper Surface Creek country, remembers when history was being made.

His parents, William and Ella S. Kiser, came from Crawford County, Pennsylvania, to Delta in 1852. They came to Cedarvale in 1884 when they bought a claim relinquishment from a Mr. Hirstaler on 160 acres (now owned by Lewis Armstrong, Palmer and Company, and Mr. Stout). Located about four miles north of Cedarvale, it was the highest homestead on the stream that became known as Kiser Creek. Named for his father, an Kiser Reservoir and Kiser Slough.

The family moved to the homestead to stay when Charles was seven years old. The original log cabin is still standing southwest of the large frame house that William built for his family a few years later.

Charles had an older brother, Will, a sister, Maye, and a younger brother, Harry. Maye married William Wornack and they raised hay and cattle on the place known as the Toogus Creek Orchard Company Ranch. All of the children helped with chores and farm work, feeding the stock and milking the dairy cows.

As soon as there were enough prospective students in the community (it was needed) a new school district was formed in about 1891. On Grand Mesa the men cut logs, which were taken to the walls of the schoolhouse. The district furnished the material for the roof, floor, windows and door. Farnell School was named for the first teacher.

At that time, sessions were held only six months during the winter. The older students were absent in the spring and fall to help with the planting and harvesting of crops.

Charles started school at Farnell when he was seven years old and by



Children of William W. and Ella S. Kiser. Back - Will (84) and Charles. Front - May Kiser Wornack and Harry Kiser.

the time he had completed the eighth grade, high school was available in Cedarvale. He attended for three years. He remembers that year he started school, his father helping his mother to "guard." This he enjoyed so much that for 80 years following, he never missed a summer.

Charles began farming for himself the year he married Lola McGugh in 1911. His father gave him 40 acres for a start. The property adjoined the homestead on the north. His brother, Billie, was given another 40 to the west, and Harry eventually took over the home ranch.

Like many early settlers, all of the Kisers built big hay barns near their homesteads to protect the hay from winter snows. Barns for livestock were constructed on each side of the hay barn.

On his 40 acres Charles built a sawdust house, and a two-story stone and log building that he called a cellar, or milk house. These buildings are still standing. He added 60 acres to the ranch and planted most of it in alfalfa and grain. A considerable part of the family income was earned with the aid of his teams of horses. He was always proud of them.

Charles' endeavors for many years included working at the Tom Boy Mine at Tehulme for a few years, contracting to build reservoirs on Grand Mesa, seven years with crews using teams of horses and scapans. He built the dams of Eggleston, Hotel Twin, Kiser, Young, Kiser, Wyan, Pedro and Pine Reservoirs.

Between building dams, he hauled pipe for the Delta waterline from Delta to as far as Fairview coal mine, hauled lumber from sawmills on the side of Grand Mesa to Cedarvale or Delta. Pierce Brothers had a sawmill on Youngs Creek and Orin Kitch had one on Kiser Creek. During some winters, they could use a team to haul lumber until Christmas time. Other years they skidded all the way to Cedarvale.

Charles' first venture in road building was in 1933 as a county employee. He was promoted three years later to the job of foreman of the district which was located between the Guesenon River and the county line on top of Grand Mesa.

The job ended the year he was elected County Commissioner (for one term) in 1943. That year he finished land west of Cedarvale and started all over again. He built a house, moved in and began working on the other farm buildings. The barn, exactly like the one on his father's place, was built of logs except on Grand Mesa and had them milled to his own specifications. Except for putting up some of the rafters, he did all of the work on the barn himself.

Charles still lives in the house he built west of Cedarvale, but he is not alone. In 1974, his oldest son, Gerald, and wife, Mary, came to live with him. His other son, Mike, resides in California.

ACCIDENTS

Many early issues of the Surface Creek Champion newspaper reported accidents that happened to buggies and wagons because of balky horses, runaways or people being bucked off busy steeds. There seemed to be as much trouble caused by speeding horses on four legs as there are with the modern horses "under the hood."

April 5, 1907 Isaac Rowell was killed when his horses ran away going down Drayley Grade (also known as Rowell grade) northwest of Cedarvale. There were no witnesses to the accident so details of the mishap were never known.

December 28, 1906, Dr. J.F. Began was killed when he mounted his horse to make a house call. Apparently he failed and as he slipped out of the saddle his feet caught in the stirrup. This frightened the horse which dragged him down the street. The doctor was badly bruised before his horse was caught.

There were numerous reports of horses being frightened by modern contraptions, i.e., autos and motorcycles. Many times the runaways were caused by just plain carelessness on the part of the animals, but also, when very lively horses were driven by people without the experience and ability to handle them.



Workers at sawmill on Grand Mesa south of Eggleston Lake. This was taken between 1920-22. Hill Henderson, Paul Ward, Ross Carmichael, Fred Flimpton, Bob James, Charles Henderson, Oscar Vogan.

If not THE first, at least one of the first sawmills on Grand Mesa was opened in 1909 by Del Kitch. He, and his wife and children arrived in Cedaridge in 1905.

For eight years Kitch operated his sawmill, located just above the Kiser Reservoir. He and Jim Trine, of Ohio, were partners in the business.

After the sawmill was established, they opened the first lumber yard in Cedaridge. In addition to these enterprises, Kitch also operated the first bus line from Cedaridge to Grand Mesa. Children will recall the wagon loads of lumber that were hauled from Grand Mesa to the lumber yard. The yard was sold to Andrew Kaufman in 1918. Bob James was associated with the business at that time, and many of the Cedaridge buildings were built during the years 1918-23.

Since the time the first sawmill was established, there have been several others, including one adjoining lumber yard.

Webb Bryson's sawmill was set up south of Cemetery Road.



Alonso and Phoebe Hamilton and two oldest children came in a covered wagon from Iowa, to Surface Creek Valley in 1866. Their homestead was located about one mile west of Trickle Bridge. Their daughter and her husband Clarence Hunt still live on her parents' homestead. With the Hamiltons on the horse, in the picture, is their grandson Donald. Their sons were Frank, Charlie and George. Alonso's father Hugh Hamilton came with them on the covered wagon top and homesteaded earth of his son.

One of the early settlers who is remembered for his carpentry skills is Robert (Bob) P. James. He came to Cedaridge in 1901 at a time when many of the buildings were crudely built — a "hame made" look. Although only 25 years old, he brought with him a knowledge and practical skill in his trade. From 1904 to 1916, James either built or helped to construct many of the buildings that are standing and in use today.

Some of these include: Brooks Service building, the Drug Store and Kankryn Variety and Dry Goods Store.

The first brick on Surface Creek, east of town, was built through the efforts of James, as were the Cedar Mesa and Reed schools.

When he and W.W. Sackett laid out the Cedar Mesa grade about 1906, their instruments consisted of a carpenter's level and a 16-foot board — the grade has never changed. Townspeople turned out on a mass and made the grade by hand, working until it was wide enough for the work of the county grader, pulled by his horses.

In 1916 James was associated with the Cedaridge Lumber Company. He was president of the firm until he was appointed postmaster in 1933. He held this position until 1946. Following through on the post job were his two daughters, Lela Aust and Margaret Mills. Another daughter, Hazel Jones, lives in California.

In addition to contributing his skills in carpentry to the community, James was active in civic affairs. For many years he was a member of the Cedaridge Town council.



Robert James, builder of many early day structures in Cedaridge, also postmaster. Case belonged to Sen Lovett, Hazel Austen photo.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stalte with three sons — tall, good-looking young men — named Albert, Henry and Ernest, and a daughter, Emma, (who later married Jim Caldwell) came to Surface Creek Valley in 1884. They chose land for their home about a mile north of the present town of Cedaridge.

As a young man in Germany, Albert had learned the carpentry trade, and pursued it here in the new country. The original Stalte home was built of logs which later were covered with siding. It is still in good condition on the ranch.

In the 90's Albert and one of his neighbors, John Wettschick, were among the first settlers to plant orchards north of Cedaridge.

Ernest Stalte bought the 40-acre parcel of land joining his parents' farm on the north. He set out 27 acres of fruit, 24 in apples and three in peaches and cherries. The newcomers tried many varieties of fruit trees to determine what produced the best for the area. The original orchards on both Stalte places have been re-set several times during the years. Like other pioneers, the Stoltes raised alfalfa and cultivated crops until their orchards were in production.



Pelly Marsh and John Davis, the draggist, in front of the Grandby Cuts

In the early days, not long after the pioneers settled in Surface Creek County it became evident that the supply of water from the streams was not adequate to irrigate all of the land being brought into cultivation. Sometime prior to April 1887, a group of farmers formed the Surface Creek Ditch and Reservoir Company with the object of building dams on the lakes in the Alexander lakes group and a ditch from Ward and Kiser Creeks to bring to Surface Creek water stored behind these dams. This ditch became known as the Big Ditch.

Undoubtedly this was one of the first irrigation companies. It was preceded only by the Alfalfa Ditch Company which had the earliest right from Surface Creek, dating back to December, 1881.

Some of the early stockholders and directors of the Surface Creek and Reservoir Company were: Henry Kohler, W.S. Pickett, R.F. Griffith, Wm. Kennard, R.C. Griffith, Jas. Stahl, Chas. Estes, O.B. Wiley and John Young.

Minutes of early meetings between 1887 and 1889, record that the directors voted to raise the dams of Eggleston and Barren lakes but apparently did not get it done until a few years later.

John Curtis was the engineer who did the early engineering work for the company.

On April 12, 1894, a group of farmers consisting of Eugene Rowell, Richard Gray, Benjamin Todd, Isaac Rowell and Myra Rowell filed articles of incorporation for the Grandby Ditch and Reservoir Company. This group transferred to the new company several reservoirs known as the Ludore reservoirs and the Dirty George Creek reservoirs located on the head of Dirty George Creek. The names were changed to the Grandby Reservoir No. 1 to 14. Stock in the amount of \$2,000 was issued as the Grandby Company. Sometime later, the Grandby Company sold reservoirs Nos. 13 and 14 (which were probably better known as the Battlement reservoirs) for \$100 each. The company acquired a ditch from Ward to Kiser Creek and started construction of the Grandby ditch from Dirty George to Ward Creek.

The Park Reservoir, which at the present time is the largest storage in this area of Grand Mesa, was started by Robert Trickle (grandfather of Mrs. Charles Buzzard) and a man named Capital Spaulding. The work was started sometime in the late 1880's. The reservoir was later taken over by the Park Reservoir Company. Some of the early stockholders in this company were: A.T. Brookbank, Frank Buzzard, H.K. Ferguson, Jas. Zanetti, J.B. Hart, Chas. Pike and Stockham brothers.

Loon Lake Reservoir, situated on Loon Creek watershed in Mesa County, was started by a man by the name of Coal By. The lake was dammed up and a tunnel driven through the mountain to divert the water thus stored to Beaver Creek watershed and into Surface Creek. This resulted in a lawsuit with water users of Plateau Valley which was settled by building the Coalye Lake Park Reservoir as a compensating project to replace the flow water taken from Loon Creek. The Coalye project was taken over

by the Loon Lake Ditch and Reservoir Company.

Cedar Mesa Ditch and Reservoir Company was started in 1894 by John McKinnon, Ed Cole, Mr. Gallant, Harry Hall and his father and others. In addition to the reservoir on the head of Surface Creek, a ditch was started to carry water from Surface Creek to Cedar Mesa.

The Fruit Growers Reservoir in Hart's Basin was started in 1897 by farmers on the lower end of Surface Creek Mesa. It was gradually built up to a capacity of 3,400 acre feet in 1937. In June of that year the dam failed. An irrigation ditch was formed and it contacted the Bureau of Reclamation to construct a 4,460 foot reservoir in 1938. The transfer ditch from Dry Creek, which is one of the filling ditches for the reservoir was also constructed to a capacity of over 100 cubic feet per second.

Orchard City Irrigating District installed three pumps, each with a capacity of five cubic feet per second, to pump water from the Goussier River to irrigate some of the lands on the lower rim of Surface Creek Mesa, thus releasing the water generally supplying these lands for use further up the valley.

There are numerous other reservoirs and ditches supplying the Surface Creek area. The majority, like the ones mentioned, was started by the pioneers of the valley. The pattern of development is similar in all cases. The work was done either by teams or by hand; the owners or stockholders doing most of the work, and gradually building up the dams and ditches from year to year. This practice continued until about 1940 when the use of heavy machinery was started.

All of the reservoirs on Grand Mesa are grouped together and known as Grand Mesa Water users' Park, except Trickle Park, and all reservoir water, and water in run water are handled through Water Superintendant Josephine Kuegel's office in Cedaridge (front office of the 1006' building).

Park water owners do not belong to the Association but order their water through the water office; however, Park water can only go to owners of Park water. That is the Association Pool can be transferred anywhere on the system. The purpose of the Pool is for the Water Commissioner to be able to put water, or exchange water any place in the Surface Creek drainage area.

Ward Creek, Kiser Slough and Cedar Mesa reservoirs were built as equipment when water from other smaller reservoirs could be held over, or stored to regulate the flow in the creek.

The Water Commissioner District Supervisor of Grand Mesa — Uncle Campbell area Richard (Dick) Dreesel is in office in 1977. He is also commissioner over Oak Creek, the upper half of Happy Hollow and Hamilton Gulch.

The Grand Mesa Water Dept. are: Wayne Wiseman, on the Grandby; Mack Surand, Mack Park; Orin Woodard, on Dirty George; David Wicken, main Surface Creek; Manin Stephens, Beaver Creek — East Beaver Creek (Harco).

Water Commissioners who turn the water on the creeks and streams: Steve Tack, Dirty George — Sand Creek — lower Farker Tongue — and lower Happy Hollow; Jack McKnight — upper Ward — Kiser — Centwood Creek; Willard Bull — Milk Creek — upper half Surface Creek and Cedar Run; and Paul Stockemer — Alfalfa Run (including Fruit Growers Reservoir) Dirty Creek and Current Creek.

Stragles in town on November 4, 1910, might have been the opinion that the white taws was the more as a number of charges were made in locations.

The Bolton and Smith's building (now occupied by Steph's Fashions) had been completed, and Dr. Bolton moved into the west rear downstairs. Cedaridge Realty moved into the east rear.

The office vacated by Dr. Bolton was occupied by Harry Stewart. Dr. Hamilton moved into the Chesapeake building from which the Cedaridge Realty had moved. The switch was completed when attorney Diggins moved from the bank building to an upstairs room in the Bolton and Smith building.

Cedaridge Farmers Union local was organized shortly after the Rocky Mountain division was started in 1908. The organization still meets once a month at homes of members, for a potluck supper and meeting.

COAL MINING, A HARD BUSINESS



Typical of the Old States Coal Mine, discovered by Charles States and opened in 1905.

The early settlers soon found a need for fuel rather than wood for their homes in Surface Creek County, as well as for the new settlement of Delta and surrounding areas. The lower end of Surface Creek Mesa had mostly a sage brush and grease wood and only a few trees suitable for fuel. It was a good many miles to cedar and pine trees in the foothills, and much further to the Apaches and pine forests on the side of Grand Mesa.

The first record of a coal mine dates back to 1884. The Old Rollins Mine, located west of Fair View on the south side of Grand Mesa was probably the first coal mine opened in Delta County. Frank Fiches came to Delta County in 1884 and worked in this mine soon after he came. This mine had a thick run of very good coal which caught on fire from an unknown cause and the mine was closed for many years.

It is an unusual coincidence that Fiches' granddaughter, Roseme Nellman, daughter of the late Sid and Dorabeh Fiches) 1947, was hanging out clothes while living on the White Ranch in Shoup, and just happened to look toward Grand Mesa and saw the old mine explode and heard the blast. She reported the fire the explosion caused in the cedars around the old mine. Firefighters contained the fire, but it did not go out until a large hillside was burned out. It is still visible in the side of Grand Mesa today. The crack where the smoke had escaped from the mine for many years was sealed.

Of all the coal mines that have opened in the Grand Mesa foothills area, all have been closed and are now flooded with the exception of the Red Canyon Mine, now operated by Joe Beldin. It is true that part of this mine is closed, and he does have water problems, but he is working in a new tunnel and with much better machinery, he hopes to be in full operation in a few weeks. He and his brother, the late Leonard Beldin, did some strip mining several years ago, but he is now working in a mine tunnel.

The Tomahawk Coal Mine is believed to have opened before 1900. Chester Bowersman worked the mine in the early days and Frank Fiches operated it about 1903 and 1904. His daughter Hilda Mitchell several years ago told about living at the mine and she and her brothers and sisters had to walk about four miles to the Mountain School. She told that sometimes they were frightened by mountain lions, wolves and coyotes as they walked along.

Another of his daughters, Dorabeh Shoup's husband Ed Shoup operated it in 1939-1941. Gene Yarbrough ran it for several years until it was abandoned.

The Fairview Mine was operated northwest of Delta in 1901. It is believed that the late Charles N. States discovered this mine and helped with the early operations of the mine. The road to the mine went over the "dikes" in Delta.

The Coaley Mine opened up west of Rollins Mine and is only remembered as an old mine dump.

The tunnels for the Davis Mine were opened about 1899 on the road that now goes to the Red Canyon Mine, east of the Homer Elliott house. Dolph and Clay Davis are believed to be some of the original owners. The Joseph Fiches family lived at the mine in 1906-1907.

Oldtimers will remember that a trip to the coal mines in the upper valley was a two day trip from Delta with horses and wagons. Most of the mines had a bunkhouse where the men could spread out their bedrolls at night and a corral to keep their horses.

The old Coaley Mine was operated in 1901 by Andy Watson. This mine was located above the Black Diamond which opened several years later.

John C. Myers and son Clarence bought the Coaley Mine around 1910 and operated it several years. They not only mined the coal, but delivered it to Delta. They used two wagons. The first wagon had sideboards and was piled up with coal. The trail wagon had only the single box load. They used only one team to pull both wagons and the road was easily downhill to Delta.

The Old Church Mine was operated by Tom Wand around 1903. Its location was on the Welland States property. It was difficult to work as the veins were only 28 to 30 inches thick.

Perhaps the coal mine that gained the most national prominence was the old Star Mine on the east side of Red Hill. In 1905, Charles States noticed a black streak on the hillside where snow had melted. The melted snow made a puddle that was black enough to use for ink. The mine he opened had one of the thickest veins of coal in the region.

The mine did not become known because of the 14 feet vein of coal, although it was some of the best coal in the area, but for the 75 or more dresser tracks States discovered in the sandstone ceiling of the mine tunnel. They were of different sizes and shapes as though made by different kinds of prehistoric animals.

The vein of coal in the Star Mine tipped down six to seven per cent in the southwest. The Coop Mine that was opened up on the other side of Red Hill was known as the Hill Mine as it was operated for many years by A.W. Hall. The two mine tunnels were on the same coal vein and came together in 1935, although they were always operated separately. For several years Charles States worked as mine safety inspector for both mines. He would walk the full length of the tunnels for both mines each morning, before the miners went to work.

Charles States made another coal discovery on the hill above the old



Charles States with one of the donkeys used in the Old States Mine to pull empty cars from the mine entries to the rooms where the miners worked. In the early days mules and horses were used to pull the coal cars from the mine. Steam boilers provided power for hoists to pull out the cars in later years.

States Mine in March, 1937. That summer he worked with pick and shovel and wheelbarrow and by fall with the help of his son, William, they developed it enough to sell coal. This mine, known as the Top Coal Mine, was operated for some time.

George Patton was prospecting and found a vein of coal that was developed into the Green Valley Coal Mine. He helped Charles W. Rinehart open the first entry on the east side of the road, and south of the Rinehart House in 1916. The late Ira Brooks worked for Rinehart in the winter of 1920. The next winter, Brooks helped Rinehart open another mine on the hillside southwest of the first mine, and the first one was abandoned. Brooks was gone a few years, but came back and worked as foreman in the mine for nine years.

The following add was carried in the local newspaper for many years:

"The mine was lit by his fire with ease;
He knows it takes but a few minutes.
He knows it takes but a few little bits,
To fill his bin with Green Valley Coal."

The second verse was something about the foolish man who failed to lay in his winter's supply of coal, but the rhyme has been forgotten.

Raymond Clapp, now living in Delta, worked in the Rinehart Mine from 1920 to 1925 without missing a strike. In his work of shooting down the coal, Clapp shot into an old room which opened a water vein and flooded the mine. Many years later he said that he worked in water waist deep, stringing pipe on the mine ceiling for a quarter mile to try to get a pump to the source of the water so it could be pumped out. This was not successful and the mine was closed. Clapp mined in the area for 41 years.

Ira Brooks was working as foreman of the Green Valley Mine when it closed about 1946. The water broke into the tunnels at night and flooded the entire mine. Most of the mining machinery could not be reached and it is still in the flooded mine. The next year a little coal was mined above the water line, but the venture did not prove satisfactory.

A few years after the old mine was closed, the late Ira Brooks and Lyndon Fogg made an entry for a new Green Valley Coal Mine in 1949. This was located north of Welland States' home, an States' land. Carl Brooks, the son of Ira and Mack Patterson, operated it several years and later Patterson operated it alone. Due to many new government rules and regulations, this mine as well as the Top Coal Mine were closed.

Lloyd Patton and Quail Bruton opened the Red Canyon Mine in about 1917. It is believed that Frank Fiches bought it from them in about 1919, and sold it to William Wade in 1923, but after only a short time, Wade sold it back to Patton.

The Pattons raised their family at their home near the mine and as soon as their son Carl finished school he worked in the mine. His eldest son, Lyndon, opened a coal retail business in Delta and later moved it to Mountain. Lloyd Patton ran the mine for many years until he retired in 1962, and sold it to Lyndon Fogg. The mine entry was changed and the new tunnel built while Fogg still owned it.

The late Leonard Beldin and sons bought the mine in 1967. Joe Beldin has been operating the mine for several years. The Red Canyon Coal Mine is the only coal mine in operation at this time and has been in continuous operation the longest of any mine in the area. Their coal is a very good quality.

The Western Star Mine was opened by Charles Rinehart as a joint of the hill west of the Charles Aldridge property. Walter and Bill Boyd were working in the mine when it filled with water and was abandoned in the 1940's.

Black Diamond Mine was opened west of the present home of the Chuck Stearns by Bill Carsten. It was ran seven or eight years, but was finally abandoned because of water problems in the mine. A room was dug in the hillside where a boiler was set up to use steam power to pump the water from the mine, but this was not very successful.

The Old Blossom Mine was opened on a cliff on the Blossom Ranch about 1904. There was no road to the mine at first, and the coal went down a long chute to the loading area. This was not very successful, and the mine was operated only two seasons.

Frank Hitchman and Nat Thomas stopped working the mine when they ran into ash.

The McGraw Mine was opened at Cactus Park, north of Cedarvale, in the early days by a man by the same name. It was not developed very much and was not a success.

The Independent Coal Mine was opened about 1924 by Pete Clapp, and his two sons, Frank and Raymond. It was operated two or three years during World War I by Lewis Green, but flooded and was closed in 1947. The Ideal Coal Mine, east of Red Canyon was opened by Raymond Clapp about 1942 or 43. He worked it only a few years until he came to the line of the Lloyd Patton lease.

JOHN AND LEO CRANTFORD AND SONS NEIL AND DON



Mrs. John (Leo) Crantford held a record of 42 continuous years of service operating a barber shop in Cedarvale. Her father, Thomas Bewkes, took over Alvin Bacon's Barber Shop in 1905 and Mrs. Crantford started barbering in his shop in 1907. Old timers still remember the large granum plants that grew large enough to cover the window of her shop (on Cedar Mesa street where Pandora tavern of the cafe is now located). Some of the men said the plants grew so large because of the cigar and cigarette ash they knocked off into the lower pits. John Crantford was a stone mason and had a men's shop for a while. Ned followed his mother's profession as a barber.

September 2, 1904, Surface Creek Champion: "J.P. Caldwell came from Colorado in 1899 and bought property one and a half miles northwest of Cedarvale, (now Bertha Palmer's home ranch). The reforester set out 40 acres in locusts and Garry apple trees. He has 800 trees, now eight years old, in production. Some are so heavily laden that the limbs are breaking down. He is spraying this week for the fourth time."

Caldwell had set out 700 peach trees and had one acre planted to tomatoes; one third acre of heavy squash, and one acre set with 4,000 tomato plants. He believed that with plenty of irrigation water, anything would grow on his land. There seemed to be plenty of water for everyone in 1905, but Caldwell was of the notion that more regulations were needed in handling irrigation water. John Caldwell married Emma Stoltz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Stoltz.

This man really lived before his time, when no consider his interests and fruit-farming methods. In 1912 he built a big packing shed, siding it up partway with racks. The hand-hewn cedar posts he put in the basement for supports are still in use. One of the unique features of the shed is the elevator he invented to carry boxes of apples from the packing shed to the large storage bins in the basement. The elevator is still used by great owners, Palmer and Company. However, the hand-operated pulley type rope mechanism has been replaced with electric power. Bob Stoy owned the ranch before Palmer and Company bought it in 1952.



Dr. and Mrs. L.C. Bolton came to Cedarville in 1906.

As a young man looking for a medical practice in a frontier town, Dr. L.C. Bolton chose to locate in Cedarville in 1906. A graduate of a medical school in Kentucky, he had practiced medicine for two years before coming to Colorado.

Imagining that Westerners would think he was too young to trust their health in his hands, he grew a beard and wore it for a few years after he arrived here. Oldtimers remember that several Delta doctors were wearing Van Dyke beards at that time, so Dr. Bolton was following the latest style.

The youthful doctor's initiation into medical service in Western Colorado came when the train in which he was riding collided with another, between Garfield and Montrose. It seems that he had gotten out of his seat to go to the smoker when the accident happened. Suddenly a railroad rail pierced the side of the car and thrust through the seat he had just left. Other people were not so lucky, and several died as a result of the accident.

When Dr. Bolton arrived in Cedarville, two other doctors were engaged in the practice of medicine. They were Dr. Hastings and Dr. Tom Burgess, both of whom left the area a short time after Dr. Bolton came here.

The good doctor was a familiar sight in the community, making calls by buggy or horseback. He took care of confinement (maternity) cases in the homes of his patients, as was commonly done in the early days. Sometimes he was forced to perform emergency surgery with what would now be considered crude instruments. His operating table might be a kitchen or dining room table.

There are several known instances of just that type of surgery. Mrs. Wiley Bryson told that while her family lived in the Sand Creek community, her small daughter, Ruth, became ill. She was taken to Cedarville to the home of Mrs. Bryson's mother, Mrs. Remosa. Dr. Bolton was quickly summoned, and when he arrived, was very shortly thereafter pronouncing his diagnosis as acute case of appendicitis. At his request, Dr. Hick of Delta hastily came for consultation. His diagnosis concurred with that of Dr. Bolton, and subsequently they performed an appendectomy on the patient, using Mrs. Remosa's dining room table.

Testimony to those early days typical skills is the following: "Aug. 10, 1910, Dr. Bolton and Dr. Burgess performed two delicate operations Thursday in this vicinity. One upon Emma Martin for appendicitis, and the other upon Mrs. H.L. Harmon. Both patients are reported doing nicely." —Surface Creek Champion.

Dr. Bolton moved into offices in the Bolton and Smith Building in 1910. Before this time, his office was located across the street from the Post Office, or on South First Street. The good doctor kept his offices in the new location as long as he practiced medicine. He never employed an office nurse or bookkeeper. He kept the account books mostly in

his hand — took his file in track, and many times forgot that his patients owed him money.

The doctor and his wife and two daughters, Edna and Lucille, had their family home in what is now the Baptist parsonage.

In World War I, Dr. Bolton answered the call for medical service. He saw to it that Uncle Sam's doughboys received the best of his care. Dr. Bolton went into the service as a Lieutenant and came out with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

On his retirement from medical practice, he engaged in cattle raising. He owned a ranch on Cedar Mesa and had a cow camp on Milk Creek.

A COMMUNITY DOCTOR



Dr. T. Herbert Austin from Bristol, England brought family to Cedarville in 1908.

DR. T. HERBERT AUSTIN — born in Bristol, England, in 1874, brought his wife and two boys, Phil and Don, to Cedarville in 1908. He bought 40 acres one mile west of Cedarville, sold half of the acreage and built a log cabin for his family on the east 20. A few years later they built a home where they lived until his death in 1943, and his wife Catherine lived there until she could no longer live alone because of her health.

A typical country doctor, he visited his patients with horse and buggy or rode horseback when the roads were muddy.

He was active in civic organizations and was often asked to be master of ceremonies for Christmas and other community programs. He played a here and there the first Cedarville band.

Dr. Aust had an office in Cedarville part of the time, but never had an office nurse or bookkeeper. He took care of confinement cases and many accidents in the homes of his patients.

Dr. T.H. Aust was appointed Justice of the Peace in Jan. of 1911. He established his new office in the Cedarville Bazaar Co. building. "I am now ready to bear the troubles of everybody," so wrote the Champions.

For over 20 years Mrs. Bob James, formerly Florence Hawkins, operated a maternity home in Cedarville. Over 225 babies were born before it closed in 1953.

Horlons Nursing Home, 65 bed unit of Care, was ready for occupancy in June 1972. "Chuck" Hughes was Administrator during planning stage and construction and few years after it was completed. Jane Schweitzer took over as Administrator Aug. 1, 1976. Lanetta Carson was the first Director of Nursing. Mary Simon became Director Sept. 7, 1976. The eight unit apartment complex was completed in Nov. 1975.



Sam and Kate Lovett in his first touring car used to carry passengers to Delta, a 1910 red Stoddard-Dayton. Picture taken in front of his "Elk Lively Barn."

A cement slab is all that is left of the lively barn built by Sam Lovett and situated west of the present Goldenbilt Realty on Center Street. Lovett had a large oilfield painted on the front of the building; as he belonged to the Elk's Lodge at that time, he called the building the Elk Lively Barn. It was a place where transients could pass the time, or stretch out on the straw to sober up, if they had imbibed too freely. We have no record of how long Lovett drove the horse-drawn stage to Delta, transporting mail and passengers because he bought his first Stoddard-Dayton automobile in 1910 and used it for the same purpose. The motor car was red and a "teak oil" affair. If he had a tap, it is not visible in the pictures taken at that time.

With his family, H.P. Miller came to Cedarville in 1906 and operated the Bar I Ranch for several years. In 1910 he and W.F. Shinneman bought the Elk Lively Barn and Stage Line from Lovett and Conner for the consideration price of \$6,500. A short time later, Shinneman traded his interest in the Barn to Miller in exchange for three residences in different parts of Cedarville. He bought a used 1910 Model F Ford in 1911 which was used as a stage to Delta.

The following month Miller started to build four residences in the K and O addition in Cedarville, for either sale or rent. Two of them he sold before they were completed.

In 1903 H.P. Miller closed a deal to purchase 10 acres of the Bar I Ranch upon which were situated the big Barn and other buildings used in conducting the huge cattle ranch. Consideration price was \$5,000. In March 1911, H.P. (Harry) Miller started to remodel the Elk Lively Barn by cutting an entrance through the rock side wall and enlarging the buggy shed. He bought several buggies and freight wagons and gave them a coat of brightly colored paint. Five months later the property was sold to Glenn and Patricia. The new partners advertised in the Champion: "We will specialize in leading fishing parties to Grand Mesa and the Creek resorts and will meet parties at Austin and Delta. Glenn and Patricia."

J.A. Phillips bought the old building in 1910 from Ernest Stolte and built a filling station where Goldenbilt's Agency is located. He operated the filling station until he passed away in 1950. His sons Roger and Robert continued his work until they moved to Delta and opened Delta implements. The old lively barn was used for a garage and storage by Frank Hobbs, Lefroy and Bernard Chinn and Al Mahabneh. The building was torn down last week, 1976.

Champion, 1934 — "L.M. Chapman arrived last week from Denver and rented the Elk Barn and Garage and it is now in operation. This young man has had several years experience in automobile, gas and all engine repair.

"Auto owners will be glad to know they can have repair work done here as it is convenient to go to Delta to have this done."

Cedarville merchants and the Surface Creek Champion newspaper sponsored a queen candidate to enter a contest for Queen of the State Apple Show that was to be held in Denver, January of 1910. Contestants were locally in 1909 and Miss Edith Blanchard won first place with 93,000 votes — 12,000 more than the other two contestants, Miss Lala Kiser and Miss Iva Odem.

The winner was given a magnificent \$200 gown and a \$75 hat, decorated with a sweeping plume, plus an expense paid trip to Denver to enter the contest on the state level. There the Frivola entry, Miss Mabel Skinner, was selected and crowned Queen of the State Apple Show. Runners-up in second place were Miss Fair City of Pacific and Miss Genevieve Harig of Delta, 1910.

Surface Creek fruit growers were awarded more prizes in the National Apple Show than were entrants from any other section of the country. Topping the list were the following plate winners with the type of apple entered:

- Alexander — Chas. H. Dixie, Cory
- Lewell — E.J. Smith, Cedarvale
- Yellow Ballflower — J.B. Rankin, Eskert
- Rancho — W.N. Kennicott, Eckert
- Flo-Bell — G.H. Webb
- Rome Beauty — A.E. Miller
- Scott's Wonder — W.N. Kennicott
- Winter Bananas — C.H. Dince
- Black Ben — E.E. Ball
- Gano — A.E. Miller
- Winnipeg — J.N. Wetrich
- Grimes Golden — T.J. Harshman
- Smith Obed — J.A. Leslie
- Rhode Island Greening — G.H. Webb
- Lewer — T.J. Harshman
- White Winter Pearmaine — W.N. Kennicott
- Nybridge — J.G. Wetrich
- Northern Spie — Mrs. Arthur King
- Kasseler Black — J.A. Dowe
- North Western Greening — J.A. Leslie
- MINKLER — W.N. Kennicott

Other apples raised locally in the early days, but not mentioned in the Apple show were: Jonathans, Shenas, Wiermas, Tuffe Wiermas and Black Twig. In Surface Creek Valley, fruit growers tried many different varieties of eat only apples but peaches and other fruit. They wanted to find the best producers. Although the Ben Davis, Gano and Black Twig apples were good winter keepers before refrigeration became popular, they were not as flavorful as were later developed varieties.





WILLIAM STORE

The original Austin store was purchased in 1900 by H.F. McFadden from Henry Snyder. He operated a general store. The Austin Post Office was moved into the back of the store and Mrs. McFadden was appointed postmaster. A fire in 1925 burned McFadden's store; the Austin Canning Factory, which had been built in 1901 across the street north of the store and it threatened The Weaver Lumber Company. In the excitement Mr. E.R. Weaver died of a heart attack. The lumber company was across the road, west of the store. The canning factory was never rebuilt, but McFadden rebuilt the store. Later a two-story building was constructed by Philip Kehl adjoining the store on the east. The top floor was used for a dance hall and for meetings and the lower story for a store and a restaurant at different times. Gay and Clara Williamson bought both buildings in 1947 and operated a store there until his death in 1976. The present owners are Gary and Patty Tharp.

Before 1906, probably as early as 1895 Dr. A.E. (Austin) Miller saw possibilities that the area on lower Surface Creek Mesa would be an ideal fruit country. Dr. Miller had come here from Iowa, for his health and bought much land here to pave his faith in the future of the area, which was later called Austin, in honor to him.

At first, transportation consisted of horse and oxen draws wagons, horseback riding and the river loaded a ferry until a bridge was built later.

Orchards were set out extensively and a depot was welcomed in 1902. Since that time orchards have been taken out as they grew old but late years some of them are being replaced, so we can again be rightfully called Orchard City.

Austin has been beset with near disasters many times, during its existence. In 1925 it suffered its first loss when a fire originating in the Canning Factory, and destroying the McFadden Grocery as well, threatened the whole town. In fact Mr. C.H. Weaver who owned the Lumber Yard, became so exhausted saving his store and home that he suffered a heart attack and died that night.

Another fire in 1933 took its toll, when the Growers Trading Co. and part of the Weyssch Packing Shed were burned.

In 1937 the Fruit Growers Reservoir dam broke, which did untold damage to the town and countryside. The farmers suffered loss of their water for the season, and the force of the water brought with it boulders which are still to be seen in the vacant lots as grim reminders of that June in 1937.

Incidentally, a new packing shed was built on the site of the Canning Factory, and it, too, burned in 1955. Although the citizens could have given up many times, they were made of "sterner stuff" and only dug in each time, striving to make things better than they had been before.

Besides the optimism of its inhabitants, other elements which have contributed to the town's well-being are: that it has the best water there

to drink. Residents feel that is one of the big factors in people building new homes there at this time. These people come from many places. The water is well advertised by its thirsty residents. Too, the allotment for each tap use, under normal conditions is much higher, than the surrounding area, and at a minimal price.

Another feature the residents are proud of is the branch station of the Colorado State University Experiment Station. Ample manned by Dr. Cecil Rogers and his staff, one can find out which bug is the guilty one and how to eradicate it. The laboratory can diagnose the prevailing disease, and its remedy. Many more "weedy days" calls are handled so efficiently, eliminating the risks that once went with seeking.

Austin still retains its post office and rural route, a grocery store, a church, garage and filling stations. It is served by school buses, which is the trend of the times, since centralization of most everything seems to exist — "more efficiency."

Although Austin hasn't grown throughout the years, it has been a town still if its quality has increased, if it has not grown in size and numbers.



The Austin Methodist Church was built in 1918. Services were held there until 1967 when the church merged with the Delta Methodist church. The church building was sold and has been converted into an apartment house.



Austin Baptist church members worshipped in a traveling tabernacle made of a railroad car and in their church basement until the Austin sanctuary was completed in 1964.

AUSTIN U.S. POST OFFICE



Austin Post Office

Serving through the years as postmasters at Austin were the following: Charles Gutzwill, 1905 with an office in the lumber yard; W. Snyder, dated 1907-1911; E.L. Landreth, 1911-1915; Harriet McFadden, 1916-1924; Fossie Ritter, 1924 until her death in 1926.

Ida Henman was postmaster in 1926 for a few months; then John Starnes, 1926-1941; Mrs. C.H. Callahan, March to August of 1941; C.H. Callahan, 1941-1943 Lillian Dwydane, 1943-65; no permanent postmaster for over a year; Ida Kette, 1967-1975; Audrey Myers, 1975 to present time, 1977.

The first Austin rural mail carrier is believed to have been Sam Ritter in 1907; Arch Hawker, 2008-10; Joe Berfield, 1910-20; Arch Hawker again 1929-1967.

FRUIT GROWERS RESERVOIR

The site for a reservoir was located in 1898 by George Wilson, Eugene Hubbard and George Hartman. It was developed into the Fruit Growers Reservoir and laid in the lower end of Hart's Buzz. A company was organized by the residents of lower Surface Creek for the purpose of building a dam. Shares of stock were sold at \$10 each, and by January 1899 a 20-foot dam, 450 feet long had been completed. It is interesting to note the amount of wages paid to the crew. A man received \$1.25 per day—a man with a team of horses collected \$2 daily.

The dam later was raised an additional seven feet. It was used to store water for fruit growers of lower Surface Creek Mesa until Sunday, June 13, 1937, when it broke, emptying the summer supply of irrigation water through a narrow gorge onto the town of Austin.

Great was the damage to the town and the farmland that lay in its path; but this was little compared with the loss of water divinely used to mature the crops that summer.

Before the week was over, the residents of the lower end of the mesa met and voted unanimously to rebuild the dam. Work began immediately. The new one, built to meet specifications and requirements of the state engineer, was erected at the expense of the stockholders only, without help of any kind from either the state or federal government.

Though this reservoir belongs to the residents of the lower Mesa - Cary and Austin - it lies only about two miles east of the Eckart Store. The reservoir furnishes fishing and speed-boating for many sportsmen throughout the summer. Annually, the Lions Club sponsored boat races there for several years. The reservoir is one of the places next numbers of irrigation water low fed and quiet waters to rest upon in their spring and fall floods.

AUSTIN-ROGERS MESA AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER

The Austin-Rogers Mesa Agriculture Research Center has been in operation since 1924. Ferris Green was the first superintendent of the station. Prior to that time, the 40-acre site was used for educational and demonstrating purposes.

Colorado State University's Experiment Station purchased the Rogers Mesa site in 1961 as an 80-acre tract of undeveloped land. In 1962, 10 acres were cleared, leveled and apple trees were planted. An additional 28 acres have been prepared and planted to apples, peaches and neotomates.

The Austin-Rogers Mesa center is situated in the heart of the apple-growing area of Delta and Montrose Counties. The Austin site is located 7 miles east of Delta just off Colorado 92, at the top of the grade going into Austin. The Rogers Mesa site is located 10 miles east of Austin on Colorado 92.

The Austin and Rogers Mesa sites are situated at an elevation of about 5,300 and 5,380 feet, respectively, with an average precipitation of about 10 inches annually, supplemented by irrigation. The average growing season is 156 days.

Dr. Ewell A. Rogers, acting superintendent since 1953, gives the following report of the work of the research that is being accomplished at the center:

Research at the Austin-Rogers Mesa center is conducted cooperatively with scientists from Orchard Mesa Agriculture Research Center, another one maintained by the Colorado State University Experiment Station.

The primary emphasis is on cultural and management aspects of the orchard and fruit industry. Over the years, more than 300 varieties of fruit have been tested at the site. Although apples are the most commonly grown fruit in this area, tests also have involved peaches, apricots, nectarines, plums, sweet and sour cherries and pears. (One of the fruit ranches that is cooperating with test plots is Antelope Hill Orchards.)

Experiments include the following: introduction of the four leaf clematis method of pruning; evaluation of new strains of fruit; introduction of semi-dwarf fruit trees and high density planting; recommendations on proper use of fertilizers and herbicides; Trickle Irrigation and Procedures in correcting iron chlorosis problems.

A tissue laboratory was developed to study deficiencies of macronutrients and micronutrients in fruit trees. Controlled temperature storage units are used to determine factors affecting apple quality during storage.

Inquiries have been received from many parts of the world in regard to the research work done at the center. Field days are planned to allow the public a chance to tour the experimental plots and to hear scientists explain their research work. Visitors to the center are welcome any time. Arrangements can be made for group tours. Publications reporting on research are available at each center or through CSU extension offices in the area.



Austin-Rogers Mesa Agriculture Research Center office on the ground floor and the lab in the basement. Dr. Ewell Rogers is acting superintendent of the center.

CEDARIDGE JAIL

Although there is no record that it was used very often — Cedaridge had a jail in the early days. It was built south of the Elk livery barn, on the present location of Palmer and Company's packing shed. The walls were six inches thick, made of 2x6's spiked together.

The story is told of a Cedaridge writer who was picked up on a drunk charge and put into the little jail. Because the building was so well constructed, the prisoner could neither tear out the bars nor break down the door. It had one air ventilator spot — the roof. It seems that he tore apart the chimney, brick by brick — or took down the stove pipe and pried off the roof jack. Whatever he did, a hole let in the roof was barely large enough for the man to squeeze through. Report was that he left town before daylight and, insofar as is known, he was never seen in these parts again.

During the time that the water for the Cedaridge system was taken out of Surface Creek, a cement raceway and settling tank were constructed about two miles north of town on the west bank. With teams of horses the city fathers moved the little jailhouse and set it up near the water works. Ed Watson, town marshal and in charge of water maintenance, lived in the little house for many years because someone had to check on the water several times a day and night during high water in the Spring of the year. Valves had to be closed and opened to allow a maintenance man opportunity to shovel sand and mud out of the settling tank, and flush the sediment out of the raceway. Watson, an Englishman, landscaped the hillside west of the water works and picnicked often west there in Sandycroft and meadows.

After the town of Cedaridge brought the first pipeline from Grand Mesa, the pipe was connected with the cement settling tank, set to get hot the dirt but to bleed the line of air before it went on to the Cedaridge water cistern, south of town. So Marjorie and John Mills were hired to pour a cement foundation around the settling tank. This base was the size of the little jailhouse which, with its back-bay, Earl Troop mowed to its present location.

This part of the Cedaridge water works has been abandoned since the new Surface Creek Water System bypasses the location. The little, old jailhouse is still owned by the town of Cedaridge.



The Cedaridge jail

CEDARIDGE WATER SYSTEM

Prior to 1913 each family in Cedaridge depended on a well for domestic water, but that summer the Cedaridge water works were put into operation. Two cement reservoirs were built, one mile north of town and water was pumped to them from Surface Creek. After the water settled in the reservoirs it flowed through pipes into town.

The men responsible for installation of the new water works were: Major, J.C. Robinson, and the trustees, J.R. Cooner, B.F. Ehart, W.S. Sneedford, Thos. Thompson, Bob James and L.C. Bates.

At this time very few people had water piped into their homes, but used a bucket to carry in from a faucet in the yard to the kitchen. Before the lines were extended all over town, people living several houses away from a faucet would carry water from a neighbor's water tap.

Ed Watson, an Englishman of Irish blood came to Cedaridge before World War I. He was full of public spirit but because of his poor eyesight, to give him an easy job, the town council appointed him as clerk, day water works and water superintendent. The last two offices he held for many years.

Watson lived alone with his Anzelle dog "Ryb" in a long narrow building located south of the pool hall (now Short Beach) being kept open as a vehicle to drive between it and the bank building. After the little jail was moved to the water-works site on Surface Creek, Watson and "Ryb" stayed there at night during the spring run-off, and took care of the water.

The first Cedaridge water system was used until 1909-68 when the town laid a pipeline directly to Grand Mesa to tie in the springs in the Cedar Mesa and Bonita reservoir areas. The pipeline brought the water to the "water works" on Surface Creek where the air was "bled" out before the water flowed to Cedaridge.

The two reservoirs north of town were covered at about the same time Highway 65 over Grand Mesa was completed in March 1964. The road construction team had set up his black-topping mixing plant area just south of the reservoirs and he participated in covering them to be sure none of the ash or dust from his project got into the town water.

During the summer of 1995 the towns of Cedaridge and upper Surface Creek water users hired a crew to clear the right of way, dig trenches and lay pipe to be in more springs in the Lakes Area, on Grand Mesa into their water system. Five boys worked on the project under the Neighborhood Youth Corps program. Lloyd Anderson was in charge of the work crew and his wife Hilma cooked for them.

During the past 10 years lines have been extended to keep up with the building expansion in town as well as to new additions and outside residents. All of the taps have the same regulations in regard to galleys and watering restrictions but there is a difference in the charge.

The Cedaridge sewer system was built in 1976 and completed in the spring of 1977. The 1977 census shows that the population of Cedaridge is 966 persons. The town covers 71.7 acres, including all of the land annexed by the town. The water and sewer taps are about the same, 485 and there are 11 out of town sewer taps.

What did young people do for winter recreation in 1917? "Young folks have been making big hits on their Christmas vacation by putting in time coasting down various grades and steep hills. (Cedar Mesa grade, State line, Slaughter and old others). The snowstorm is looked upon by them as a fine thing. Sledding is not alone confined to the younger folk, but anyone who can find a pair of runners is taking advantage of the fine sledding."

The Bowen's Grove, located northeast of Trickle bridge, was a favorite place for community picnics in the first decade after the turn of the century. The settlers came from miles around on wagons and wagons to enjoy a day filled with such enjoyable pastimes as walking with old friends, eating a beautiful dinner, playing games, and catching crabs.

On April 24, 1908, the Champions reported that Mr. Bowen was clearing up the grove to make a more desirable place for public gatherings. He planned to build a permanent speakers platform in the center of the grounds.

Farmers Institute held a picnic that summer in the Bowen's Grove and the entire population of the valley was invited.

CEDARIDGE TOWN HALL

The Cedaridge Town Hall, laid up of cement blocks in 1931, was constructed adjacent the early day Garwick grocery and feed store, more recently a Western Auto Store. The west side of the new building was used for the Town Hall and the east side as the Fire Station, to house the "team cart" for a while, but the first fire equipment, an old Rio fire engine was kept here after it was bought in 1938. Other fire equipment was kept in the basement until the fire station was built.

The east side of the building was built for the town hall. There is no record in the "Champion" about the town officials during the year. The only item given was dated Oct. 8, 1931, stating that the Town Council had met in the town hall. Several members of the council had resigned and the only person who accepted a seat on the council was J.B. Perkins. The assessed value of the town had been set at \$295,235, which was a little more than \$25,000 less than the valuation the year before. However, the Council voted not to lower the mill levy to cover this amount, but to practice strict economy to build up a fund for further improvements to the town.

The building committee was authorized Dec. 10, 1931, to dispose of the cement blocks, left over from construction of the building.

Ed Marsh was elected mayor of Cedaridge in 1936 and has held the office continuously since that time. One member of the present council was elected at that time, while Phil Aust won the council in 1944, but was off for several years. Other members of the council elected in 1956 were: Dave Eckert, Alvin Huston, Theo Robbins and A. Boudin. Mrs. Blanche Phillips was town clerk for a good many years. Some of the major proceedings 1956 were: Alvin Huston, Phil Aust and Ed Restrow, not necessarily in that order.

The basement of the Town Hall was enlarged at different times to make room for town equipment and the ambulances. The old Fire Station room was remodelled into the Cedaridge Public Library, then the south end of both rooms was extended south to cover the garage, giving an added room for the library and a spacious council room and more space for the clerk's office and lobby.



Cedaridge Town Hall built in 1931. Mrs. Blanche Phillips, long time town clerk is in the doorway.

CEDARIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Cedaridge public library was started by the Women's Literary Club after it was organized in 1910. The books filling a few apple boxes were kept in various places until moved to present location.

The Literary Club sponsored the club with benefit programs, plays, and musical as well as gift books and donated time spent as librarians. Leslie Caldwell and Altha Brewer with some donated help took care of the library for a good many years. Mrs. Marie Heaton and Mildred Davies

were librarians before Betty Worley took over the work in 1972. Her helper is Helen Barton.

The library has probably 2,000 fully catalogued books besides other old books that were never catalogued. They joined the Pathfinder System in the late 1960's and receive a portion of sales tax to pay expenses. They are able to receive books on sale from Grand Junction Library. There are mostly Children's books. They will endeavor to get other books on request.

Women's Literary Club has met twice a week during club year since it was organized in 1910. As the name would indicate the members enjoy a variety of educational programs, book reviews, travel and slide programs. The club membership is 40 to 45 women. They usually meet in homes, but hold special programs for family and guests in Mason Hall or a similar place.

BLACKSMITH SHOPS

Blacksmith shops were an essential to pioneer towns as garages and service stations are to residents today.

The first one in the upper Surface Creek Valley was located south of Trickle bridge and operated by William Trickle. In Cedaridge, the first belonged to George Lawson. The year was about 1901, the site was that of the present Center Service Station. Some shops that later operated for business were those of Eric Stone near the location of Santa Blacksmith Shop, and now where Frank's Bakery business is operating; and Frank Graham's place built near the present locker plant, which former business later sold to Jack Rack.

In the northwest corner of town, J.L. VanAken operated a shop. When he died in 1956 his son, Clarence, owned the only blacksmith shop in town. For several years, he operated the Great Shop at the Park's Bakery site.

The first livery barn was built by Bob James for Sam Lovett around 1904. Now only the cement slab of the old building remains. Lovett, a member of the Elk lodge, had a big picture of an elk painted on the side of the building. Lettered on it were the words, "The Livery Barn." Some people called it the "Elkhorn Livery Barn," and others, the "Elkhead Livery Barn." Either name could have been correct.

There are stories that Lovett was working for the Bar I Ranch when he built his house in Cedaridge. He probably worked in the livery barn and may also have been driving the stage to Delta and delivering mail to the post office that his wife managed. Some citizens think this is possible.

A man by the name of Eliot drove the stage for several years. Another driver was "Dad" Lambert, a driver in 1901. Holly Miller was coacher, and carried the mail for several years. In addition he ran a livery stable in the Bar I Barn, and was co-owner of the big ranch around 1910.

The first car service between Cedaridge and Delta was operated by Sam Lovett around 1913 but at that time mail was still carried by car.

In the 1920's and early 30's the stage line was maintained — Jack Walendorf was the driver, using an open touring car. The present line, Eckert truck line, is owned and operated by Fred Campbell.

The first garage in Cedaridge was built by Fred Parker. The building is now occupied by Thunder Mountain Hardware Store.

April 24, 1908: The Cedaridge Booster's Club will meet at the Cedaridge Hall to discuss plans for the betterment of Surface Creek Valley. Needs of the valley are: The valley needs a railroad, Delta needs a sugar factory. Officers of the Cedaridge Booster's Club are Roy A. Downs, president; J.R. George, vice president; C.W. Brown, secretary; and J.B. Senthurst, treasurer. The Eckert Boosters Club will hold a meeting to get information about best crops and of other crops that can be shipped to market.

IRVING AND EDNA BAKER — PARENTS OF THE AUTHOR



Two-Horse Baker hauling poles from Grand Mesa at age of 88.

Irving and Edna Baker came to Cedarvale in 1903. Before they left Boulder, Colorado, they rented Elker George O. States' ranch, northwest of Cedarvale. Soon after their arrival they located 48 acres of land that a Mr. Egan had filed on, but who did not intend to "pioneer" on it. The Bakers bought the 48 acres for \$50. They also secured a 40-acre adjoining tract that ran up the side of a ridge, and another 40 acres that adjoined the first plot on the southwest corner. There was an Indian brush fence on top of the ridge and down the hillside to a spring. Much of the hillside south of the old fence had been in a fire that the Indians set before they were taken to the Uintah reservation. Many of the burned-over trees could be seen on the bare hillside. (This property is now owned by the Art Lewis family.)

Having bought the acreage, the Bakers continued to rent the States' ranch until the owners moved back during the summer season. The couple then moved to their newly-purchased homestead. There they lived in a tent while Irving built a small one-room log cabin before winter set



EDNA AND IRVING BAKER

1909 — The last picture taken of Irving Baker, 85, and Edna, 75. The team, like their owner, were old and very slow, but gentle and safe for an old man to drive.

in. The cabin was added to and remodeled as the years went by. Here the Bakers raised their three daughters: Mary, Lennie and Hazel.

The Bakers met at Battle Creek, Michigan, in the mid 1890's while Edna was taking nurses' training and Irving was working at one of his jobs in the engraving department of the Review and Herald Publishing Company, or at the Sanitarium, while he was attending Battle Creek College. The couple met again in Boulder, Colorado, and were married in 1902. Their parents were all members of the Seventh-day Adventist religious denomination.

While his parents lived in Kansas, around 1890, Irving learned to make brooms. In his later life, he was to use knowledge many times. Soon after coming to Cedarvale, Irving bought Elder States' broom-making outfit, and one of the first crops he planted was broom-corn. The broom-corn that he planted on the virgin soil over the first few years was the best he ever raised, he said. The stalks grew nearly six feet high and the heads were long. The brush made excellent "bums" for the outside layer on a broom. For many years, Irving made up brooms to sell or trade for provisions (supplies) at stores in Eckert and Delta. Many times he cut heads of wood and posts to sell, too. One of the last brooms he made was around 1945 which his daughter, Hazel, donated to the Delta Historical Museum.

Like many other settlers, during haying season Irving "worked out" — at the Bar J Ranch and at Colburn. In the Fall of the year, he worked in the orchards.

During World War I, the Government requested Irving to start a broom factory in Delta and broomcorn seed was sent to farmers for planting. Unfortunately, the seed came late and was planted too late to mature into suitable broom for broom-making. The resulting broom factory never materialized, but, insofar as he was able, Irving continued to make up brooms, a few at a time.



(Dee-Horse Baker) Jackson and Heles Baker came to Cedarvale in 1905.

His brother, Judson, and wife, Helen, came to Cedarvale in 1905 and acquired 48 acres of land, located three-quarters of a mile south of Irving's homestead. While in appearance the brothers really did not resemble each other very much, from a distance people living along the road couldn't tell them apart, except for the horses they drove. Irving always drove a team of horses to a spring wagon of a heavy wagon, while Judson and his wife drove one horse. For many years, Irving was called "Two-horse Baker," and Judson, "One-horse Baker." Neither of the brothers ever owned a car.

Irving's daughter Hazel, and her husband Paul Austin live on the land her Uncle Judson proved up on. Author Hazel's two sisters live in California.

When Irving's wife, Edna, passed away from a heart attack in 1959, he moved (broom machinery and all) to California. The last broom he made when he was about 90 years old. He lived to be almost 95 years of age. Not only does Irving's name live in the hearts of his descendants, it is honored by the State Road Department which set up a sign, "Baker's Ridge Loop" on the Grand Mesa Road. This memorializes the first land owner on the south and of the two-mile-long ridge.

MORSE LODGE



Nellie Morse-Wright and her father Col. Frank Morse built Morse Lodge on Grand Mesa.

Morse Lodge was a name given to a rustic log structure on the south bank of Eggleston Lake on Grand Mesa. It was built by Colonel Frank Morse and his daughter, Nellie (later married to Merrill Wright). Father and daughter also operated a store that adjoined the lodge on the west. The first similar set-up they had was located on Cold Spring, around the bend of the road west of the Morse Lodge.

In addition to the 26 beds available in the lodge, they put up many benches along the lake shore. In all, there were 68 beds to accommodate tourists. Water was pumped from Cold Spring, a flowing spring that supplied water for all of the privately owned cabins on the north side of Ilwaco and Eggleston Lakes.

As soon as the road leading to the Lodge was opened in the Spring, for many years Walt Aldridge hauled in groceries, supplies and coal using four horses and a heavy wagon. Meals were served at the lodge for guests and fishermen.

One Fourth of July a big snowstorm surprised many people and left them stranded on the Mesa without food or shelter. This was around the year 1912 before the Lodge was completed. The resourceful owners made up beds "all over the place" for the comfort of numerous unexpected guests. In later year, Nellie told that she cooked for two days without rest, in an effort to feed all of the people. All bread served was baked at the lodge. Sometimes they ate out of light bread and several girls were hired to help with the kitchen and doing room work and assist Nellie as chambermaids.

A string of saddle horses were kept at the Lodge to rent out for trail



COL. GEORGE FRANK MORSE

NELLIE WRIGHT

rides. Bobby Morse and a young man by the name of Hatch sometimes took care of the saddling and helped out wherever they were needed. After the building burned, it was never rebuilt.

Frank Morse, a druggist from Chicago, went to Nebraska, Nebraska to benefit his health in 1880. His wife, Lennie, and three-year-old Nellie joined him at the new prairie home on Keys Park River (Indian name for Tuttle Creek) a four-days' drive with horses and wagons from the railroad at Nebraska. A sister, Beulah, was born while Nellie was 12 years old.

After the deaths of his wife and Nellie's father, the remaining Morases left the prairie. Times life did not improve the colonel's poor health. They spent a year traveling with a covered wagon, going as far west as Idaho and Yellowstone before coming to Cedarvale about 1905. They purchased the Col. Reed property north of Cedarvale and later sold it to the J.D. Sherrill family. Morases bought the adjoining property.

Nellie was always an outdoors woman, doing a man's work. Outdoors recall that she sometimes hauled coal to Delta and brought back groceries and supplies to Cedarvale. She was naturally reserved, while for everyone, Lennie fell in love and married Lauree Brown. At the birth of her two daughters, Enjole and Beulah, she died.

Nellie and her father raised the twins and also found a place in their hearts and home for three motherless children — John, Barbara and Bobbie Worth, whom they took care of for several years. The little group was often seen on the road going to Cedarvale at Grand Mesa with Colonel Morse leading the way followed by Nellie and all of the children on horseback.

The colonel suffered a heart attack while vacationing in California and died there. Nellie had married and her husband passed away several years later, after they bought a home in Cedarvale on Cedar Mesa Street.

In her later years, Nellie learned of a need for food and clothing in an new Adventist Navajo Mission school at Holbrook, Arizona. Through her leadership, for several years members of the Cedarvale Adventist Church furnished the school with canned fruit and vegetables, and the community sent several truckloads of fresh fruit and vegetables, and bedding to the new school. The aid gave the new school the boost it needed. It is now a thriving 11-grade boarding school for Indian children of many different tribes.

Fascinating stories of Nellie's life are recorded in a book, "Nellie's Prairie," by Inez Lippig, written a short time before the former's death in 1959.

James R. Leman brought his family from Lake City to Eckert in a covered wagon in 1884. They forded the Guadalupe River to reach Surface Creek Mesa and located one mile north of Eckert.

Leman was serving as Justice of the Peace in Eckert when an Grand Mesa Mission was killed by Radio's game warden, Mabeaux.

One of Leman's sons, Quincy, former Delta County Coroner and justice, was born in the family home. In addition to Quincy, the other Leman children included: Mrs. Lloyd (Delta) Miller of Delta; Mrs. Lee Turner; Mrs. J.F. (Delta) McKinnon and Mrs. Beth Johnson. All of the children attended the old Trickle School and are in the picture of Dan Daugherty's school, taken in 1909.

Diana Miller married Lloyd Miller, son of P.H. (Holly) and Ada Miller. As a young man, Lloyd worked with his father and brothers, while the family lived on the Bar J Ranch. Holly Miller bought Sam Lovett's Elk Livery Stable in 1910 and took over Lovett's mail route to Delta. Lovett bought a Stoddard-Deaton car in 1910, the first car in Cedarvale. Miller bought the second, in 1911, a used 1909 Model F. Ford which he used for passenger service.

The year they bought the car, Lloyd started to drive the mail stage to Delta. He stayed with the job until he started farming on Antelope Hill in 1916.

After Lloyd and Diana were married they lived in Pueblo for a while, but returned to Delta where Lloyd worked in various garages and also conducted a dance band from 1940 to 1950. Diana was a Co-op telephone operator in Eckert and Delta for 25 years and worked as Delta County Registrar from 1941-58. She still makes her home in Delta.



North side of Cedar Mesa Street, 1912.

Newscomers would have almost as hard a time recognizing the town of Cedaridge in 1912 as Old Timers that year would have in identifying the remodeled buildings and building-fronts of today. A vast change has been made in the appearance of the town in the past 10 years. Several of the structures on the main part of town have been torn down to make way for new and modern buildings, while some were taken away and the ground was left open.

This picture of Cedar Mesa Street is dated 1912 and was taken by an unknown photographer. In talking with several old timers who lived in Cedaridge about the time the picture was made, many interesting incidents have been remembered.

The building at the far left was used as a postal office by a Dr. Morris before 1912 and he was followed by Dr. Pittard. The late Mr. and Mrs. Mart Peterson had living quarters in the back of the building for a good many years and Mrs. Peterson operated a millinery shop and kept the books for the Cedaridge Library in the front room of the building.

Building No. 2 was remodeled in 1909 by Ray Bingham and Mrs. Bingham now has a Paint Store and Hobby Shop in it and the adjoining building which was used for a cream station. Virgil Bouldin and Dolly Reed had charge of the cream station for several years. Building No. 2 was built to accommodate Grant's Grocery Store originally. Then "McKee and Patterson's Grocery" and then Carl Curtis had a feed store there for a while. Al Bouldin and his uncle Virgil Bouldin owned the feed

store several years and Allyn Houston bought it and continued to operate a feed store.

Building No. 3, now in Palmer and Company's office was built in 1905 with a second floor.

As the words on the awning in the picture indicates it housed the Cedaridge Hardware Co. in 1912. An iron coal range and heating stove are on display in the front of the store. Identification with the picture indicate that one of the Ehart brothers is standing in front of the store. The Ehart brothers later sold the store to Charles Ross.

Al Bouldin said that his uncle Virgil did the cement block work to make the front of Building No. 4 for the garage owned by Fred Parker and Shelly Hyde. Henry and Hartie Hodge owned and operated the Cedaridge Furniture and Hardware Store in this building for 38 years. Chuck Hughes changed the name of the store to "The Thunder Mountain Hardware Store" when he bought it. Don Clayton is the present owner of the store. Remodeling done by the last two owners has changed the old building into a modern store.

Buildings 5 and 6 are combined into the building that houses the Ponderosa Cafe and Ponderosa Tavern. At the time this picture was taken they housed four businesses. "The Confectionery Shop," was operated by the Lee sisters, Opale Lee Star and Beane Lee Gorsack. Roland States recalls going into the shop one day and ordering a Raspberry Sundae. Imagine his surprise and amazement when he found

a bee in the raspberry dip. It is not remembered for sure which business was on the other side of this building but it may have been "Townsend Harless Shop."

Building No. 6 was "Geer's HIRSCHELF Fashions" and as the name would indicate it was the Men's Haberdashery of Cedaridge. Bob Robinson recalls that it was owned by Joe Hirschfeld, who was known as "The Town Jew." His clerk was Frank Liske, a local young man who was also called "The Jew" because he worked for Hirschfeld. Both men were well liked and Hirschfeld is remembered by several ladies as being a very handsome man.

Building No. 7, with the name "Stewart Realty Co., Loans and Insurance," was owned by Harry Stewart and then by Roy Cotterby. In later years A. Alard had his tailor shop in the building several years.

Some people can still remember when they, or their parents hitched horses with buggies or wagons to the chain links connecting the "Old Hitching Posts" that ran north from the sidewalk. It appears that there was at least one tapped buggy, a wagon and several saddle horses tied there the day the picture was taken. The area of the Realty Building and Hitching posts in the place Anderson's Grocery was built. The store building was constructed for Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hart and Mrs. Doris Stewart, but they sold it to the Roy Adamee's and his brother G.G. Adamee now owns it.

Cedaridge had lamp posts in 1912 as one lamp post can be seen in

front of the garage and another was located by the hitching rack, or is it the Fire Bell? Al Bouldin said he was a member of the Fire Department when the bell was located on or near this post. The hand pulled hose cart was kept in a shed (not in the picture). The post of a rail showing behind the horses was probably the Lee House and the building behind the lamp post was the Robtham barn.

Building No. 8 on the extreme right in the picture housed the "Surface Creek Champion" the local weekly newspaper from 1904 until 1943. There is a floor covering shop in the building in 1937.

Some of the people in the picture were identified by the photographer and their names were printed on the bottom of the original picture. They are No. 1, Ehart; No. 2, Star; Stefan; No. 3, Mrs. Stefan; No. 4, Mrs. James; No. 5, Mrs. Bill McCornick; No. 6, Linna Lee; No. 7, not known; No. 8, Thore Thompson; No. 10 Al Bates; No. 11 F. Wilson; No. 12, F. Hirschfeld; No. 13, Frank Liske; No. 14, White; No. 15, Linna Jackson; No. 16, Harry Bobbett and his two daughters, No. 17, Mrs. Cobbett and No. 18, Mr. Gardner.

Cedaridge has always been a town where crowds have gathered for a variety of activities such as: a concert in the park, early day Chateaus, Harvest Festival activities, Community programs in the school house, community sales or a Christmas party on the street such as was put on by the merchants one year.



South side of Cedar Mesa Street about 1912.

The accompanying picture was taken at some kind of gathering in the lot now owned by Brooks Service Station. There was no date on the original picture now owned by Howard Turshack and the photographer has long been forgotten. It is believed the picture was taken in 1912 or 1913 and is of the south side of Cedar Mesa Street.

The brick building in the right center of the picture (now Brooks Garage and Service Station) was built with outside capital in 1906 by Zanetti and the Stockham brothers. J.L. Shedd had operated a General Store in the Joe Rogprege building (which was torn down 20 years before the new Cedarvale First National Bank was built in 1913) and moved to the new building in 1907 and operated a General Store there until he sold out to Frank Stewart in 1917.

Ensign and Osovie Shedd now reside in Delta. They did not recall that their father ever called his store "The Economy Cash Store" as is pictured, but on looking up some old clippings they found that the store was called by that same wild Shedd coin.

The west end of the brick building housed the "Bank of Cedarvale," the first bank of the new town 1917. In back of the bank, in the same building, was a mortuary and the Post Office.

The building at the far right in the picture was occupied first by Blanchard and Stockham as a General Store. Virgil Atchison operated a General Merchandise Store there several years and Ensign Shedd cleared for him part of the time and distinctly remembers that that was the name of his store.

The two story building at the extreme right is the old Cedarvale hall built around 1902. It had an outside stairway in the back. People, not so old may recall seeing the running gear of a wagon on the top of the hall, the day after Halloween when pranksters took the wagon apart, pulled the parts to the top of the roof where they put the wheels back on and left it extruding at the roof. The hall was used for love gatherings, meetings, school programs.

The building next to the hall is believed to be the first garage operated by Emory Nichols; next a pool hall; and a restaurant operated by Mrs. Mary Begrove. The other two story building with a stairway in the back is "The Little Hotel" built by W.C. Lohse. The top of Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Reed's house is seen above the smaller buildings. The Old Cedarvale Hall burned down many years ago and in its place is the corner shop used recently for the Mini Mart. The next building on the south now holds the Fix-it Shop and Lammomat.

The large building in the background of the center of the picture was the "Eli Lively Stable," built by Sam Lovett before 1905. Several years later it was expanded into a garage and operated by different men until the late V.A. Phillips bought it in 1919 from Ernest Starke and operated it as a garage. A cement sidewalk at all is left of the Old Eli Lively Barn.

There is no way of telling the reason for the crowd of people in the picture. An electric car, the words "Painter and Decorator" showing on the back owned by R.S. Wilson seems to be in the center of the crowd. Wilson and his family lived south of Cedarvale, across Surface Creek for several years. They moved into Cedarvale around 1913 and after he was elected Delta County Sheriff in 1919 they moved to Delta.

Perhaps the crowd gathered to listen to Wilson, or some other candidate make a political speech, just to look at the car, or to attend a public community sale such as were often held on this very spot. Owners of "rigs" seen in different places in the picture cannot be identified. There were more teams driven into town than the automobile in the era.



**FRANK AND CATHERINE
SCHRAMM**

Frank taught in CMS in 1914 and 1915 and was a rural mail carrier for 31 years, first on Route 2 using horses and later on a combined route using an automobile. They lived on a farm east of Surface Creek and Cedarvale.



MR. AND MRS. L.E. DOLPH

Lewis and Mary Dolph, with seven children, made the long trip from Nebraska to Cedarvale in 1902 in a covered wagon along with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Patterson and two bachelor brothers, Tom and Jesse Patterson. They all settled in Cedar Mesa. Lewis bought property east of Cedarvale after he received the appointment of mail carrier for Rural Route No. 2. He carried the mail from 1902 until 1902. The Jim Pattersons moved into Cedarvale at the same time the Dolph family moved to town and they built a house on Fifth Street. Lewis and Mary's living children are Lane Douglas, Dorman Dolph, Ken Dolph and Mildred Bowles, all of Cedarvale and Mary Wickman Dolph of Ft. Collins.

Business advertisements in the July 15, 1904 edition of the Surface Creek Democrat:

Physician and Surgeon J.F. Baugle	Cedarvale Shortorder Restaurant J.F. Dugan Next door east of the Drug Store
Wm. Hart Barber Shop and Pool Hall	D.T. Goff Real Estate
Joe Rogprege General Merchandise	Reynolds and King Bros. Eckert Store Dry goods, fancy articles, boots shoes, hardware, harness, saddles.
Fire Insurance Mountain Mutual C.T. Rawat - Gen. Agent.	Hotel and Lodging House Lively and Feed Store in connection A.E. Miller, prop.
Graham and Wilson Blacksmith Shop and tire setting a specialty.	Cedarvale Drug Store J.M. Estlin, prop. North of Post Office
General Blacksmith Work Clayton Stone, prop.	

Cedarvale Hack Line
leaves Cedarvale to Delta 6 a.m.
leaves Delta to Cedarvale 4:30 p.m.
carry mail and passengers
Comfortable vehicle, speedy teams
good roads.
E.A. Miller

JAMES A. HUNSICKER



Kate Hunsicker

J.A. Hunsicker, minister

"Life must be a giving out rather than taking in," was the philosophy that James A. Hunsicker followed during the 44 years he "gave" in educational work in Eckert and Cedarvale High Schools. For many of these years, he held the position of superintendent as well as classroom teacher, and minister of the Presbyterian Church at Eckert. In addition, he filled a number of other local and state offices.

He was born the son of Henry K. and Charlotte K. Hunsicker on January 10, 1858, on a farm in Lincoln Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. As he grew, he proved to be very studious, and his parents saw to it that he received good formal education. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Union Academy and Ursinus College. Later he attended Union Theological Seminary, New York City, for three years and studied Social Science at Columbia University.

Kate Bosmer became his bride in 1887. Six children were born to the union. They were: Ruth, Margaret, Dorothy (Ded), Catherine, Broome and Frederick. Eventually, the children scattered in various directions. Ded (Doughty) lives in part of her parents' homeplace at Eckert, and Catherine (Boswe) lives in Delta. Their mother, Kate, stood by her husband's side in all of his work as pastor and educator. She worked as a substitute teacher, helped with work in apple harvest on their farm at Eckert, and took care of the home and children.

While Hunsicker was studying for the ministry, attending the Seminary from 1882 to 1885, he worked in the New York City stores and also taught in a public school. On March 17, 1887, he was ordained to the gospel ministry. His first pastorate was at St. John's Reform Church at Lipton, Iowa. From 1902 to 1910 he served as pastor for the Reformed Church in Fairview, Kansas.

Because of the deep eastern climate seemed to affect his throat for public speaking, he left and came to Eckert in 1910, hoping the dry climate would be beneficial. In partnership with Fred Schwendhart, he bought some property. The land ran from the present Century Barn on the north to the Leubagh property on the south, and went to the Kehlmeier property line.

Before his family joined him, the Reformed Hunsicker remodelled the house on the property. He himself had come in as an emigrant railroad car, along with household goods, machinery and livestock. He was then 42 years old and by the time his family reached the new home in Eckert, the Reformed had raised a bear. Shortly after his own arrival, he was asked to preach for both the Baptist and the Methodist Church groups, which he did.

Eckert was just emerging from the harder days era, and the settlers were eager to have a high school in their community. Hunsicker accepted the principalship of the Eckert schools. Max Parker and Mrs. Atkins taught the lower grades and Reverend Hunsicker taught all first three grades of the high school, with 15 students enrolled. High school classes

were conducted in the old IOOF Hall, above the blacksmith shop.

A "kid wagon," driven by Mr. and Mrs. Frost brought students from Redlands Mesa to Eckert. A new high school was built near the Eckert store, about half a mile north of the elementary school. The letter was called the "Central School."

Reverend Hunsicker always seemed to be a favorite teacher. In after years, many of his former female students returned and asked him to give them a lesson. He often told his family that it really was not fair to the other ministers of the community, but he cheerlessly performed their ceremonies and never turned them down.

In 1924 Rev. Hunsicker started teaching in Cedarvale, and for the following eight years was superintendent. From 1931 until 1956 he continued to teach Mathematics. In 1955 he was named "Colorado Teacher of the Year." The next year, in 1954, he retired from the teaching profession at the age of 96.

Rev. Hunsicker was elected pastor of the Eckert Presbyterian Church when it was organized in 1913. The Reverend Lamb, pastor-evangelist, with his colleague, Hunsicker's help, formed congregations in the Redlands Mesa and Cary schoolhouses. The latter was a tent-like figure on the ranch as he traveled between the three places with "Old Maude and a buggy." In Eckert he preached the Sunday morning service; went to Redlands Mesa for afternoon service, and to Cary in the evening. His wife or one of his children would go along to do the driving while the Reverend looked over his sermon.

Faithfully, he kept a diary from the time of his arrival in Eckert until shortly before his death. He jotted down everything of interest in the community, county, nation, regarding schools, weather, temperature and family affairs. One of his entries states, "I finished one year of my three sermons a Sunday without interruption."

Of all his accomplishments, the one that gave him the greatest satisfaction was working with the people in the community to conduct the beautiful sun-covered Eckert Presbyterian Church (1915-1921). The work was interrupted many times by winter, the "flu" epidemic, and lack of money. He served as pastor of the church from 1913 to 1940, and was pastor emeritus from 1940 to 1956.

Sermons rendered to his community and church besides preaching and teaching were as follows: Moderator of the Synod of Colorado east of the Presbyterian Church of the USA, President of Colorado Education Association; States Clerk of Western Division of Presbyterian of America, 37 years; six times commissioner of the General Assembly of Presbyterian Churches of the USA. In addition, Rev. Hunsicker became a member of the Wasons Lodge in 1899.

Other positions of trust that he held in local and business affairs were: Secretary-treasurer of Grand Mesa Water Users for 32 years; Secretary-treasurer of Ranch Ditch Company, 35 years; Secretary-treasurer of Eckert Cemetery Association for 18 years; and Treasurer of Delta County Public Health Association.

After his wife, Kate, passed away in 1942, Rev. Hunsicker continued to live in the 10-room home as long as he taught at Cedarvale and spent his last years with his daughter, Catherine, and her family in Delta. The Hunsicker Elementary School in Cedarvale, and Hunsicker Hall at the Eckert Presbyterian Church are memorials to his faithful service to both communities.

Emery Gipe brought a monster cucumber into the Champion Office on October 21. It measured 19 1/2 inches long and weighed 5 1/4 lbs.

The Eckert Masonic Lodge AF and AM No. 136 was instituted in the Eckert Hall in 1906. The meeting place was moved to Cedarvale but the group retained the name, "Eckert Masonic Lodge." Spence Chapter No. 125 of OES was organized in the "Bank Hall," June 26, 1927. The Cedarvale Masonic Temple was built about 1966.

ECKERT CEMETERY AND BAPTIST CHURCH

William Womack brought his family to Surface Creek area in the late 1880's and they lived for many years northwest of Eckert on a ranch that was later owned by Ernest Bell. Soon after they came, Womack was heard to remark, "I won't bring up my children where there is no church." From that time on he was behind a building program for a Baptist Church.

Records show that "Old Brother Clark" a traveling Baptist missionary, came to the Eckert area and by subscriptions raised enough money to build the first church on Surface Creek Mesa. It was located south of the new settlement of Eckert. Womack probably donated more toward the construction of the church than anyone else. The church was constructed on land donated by Eric Johnson. It is believed that the church was completed in 1890.

Prior to 1893 the Baptist company had been organized into a church group in the log Trinkle school house. The charter members of the church were Mr. and Mrs. William Womack and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Neighbors, Miss Ella Wier, Mrs. Will Forest and Mrs. Talcott of Cedaredge. It is believed by some that Minnie Smith joined the church later. One of the early ministers was Rev. Sanford Milan Webb.

"Brother Clark" came to organize the church. He usually stayed with the Womack family while visiting the church group. As was his habit, instead of waiting to ride to Trinkle School or the new church with the Womack family, he walked all the way from Bull Mesa to Eckert. "Brother Clark" was a good carpenter and not only helped with the church building project but made the pews.

Eric Johnson brought his family to Eckert in 1883 and secured the farm north of Eckert. Two years after their arrival his wife died and he buried her on his farm. His daughter, Emma Johnson-Wier, recalled this section of



Eckert Baptist Church

land as her part of her father's estate.

After the death of her husband, Frank Wier, she dedicated part of her land for an Eckert Cemetery. The gift was made in her name and in the name of her sister Amanda Johnson Lemett who was not of age when the gift was made. Their mother's grave is in this place. Records show that Isaac Howell surveyed and platted the land for a cemetery March 9-15, 1899.

Services were held in the Eckert Baptist church until about 1996 when the membership dropped so low that there was not enough of a congregation to hold services. Good roads and automobiles made it easy for families to go to meetings in Cedaredge or Austin.

The building and parsonage were considered to be the property of the Baptist Convention in Denver. When too few members were left to afford to hire a pastor, the parsonage was rented for several years. From this source the sum of \$175 accumulated. This rent money belonged to the church group.

After the church was sold, George McDonald, a representative from the Baptist Convention in Denver, came to Eckert and held a meeting with the former members of the Eckert Baptist Church. The purpose was to decide what they wanted to do with the rent money. Since most of the members were then attending the Cedaredge Baptist Church, they agreed to give \$500 to it and \$225 to the Austin Baptist Church where those of their members attended.

At a later date, McDonald returned to Eckert and removed the bell from the church belfry. He took it and the pulpit to Denver. In removing the bell, the building was badly damaged and ever repaired. The structure was used after it was bought by Highten Hedges, Lloyd Whites. The old churchyard is now used as a cemetery parking lot.

The Eckert cemetery is a beautiful spot, especially on Memorial Day. For many years its upkeep was sponsored by the Eckert Cemetery Guild. This was before Delta County established a mall levy fund to take care of burial sites in the county. The Guild still meets and gives improvements for the cemetery.

BROOKBANK

Albert (Al) Brookbank chose the upper end of Hart's Basin for his pioneer ranch in the early 1880's. He and Mrs. Annie Miles married here in Telluride and brought her and her six-year-old daughter, Winnie, to their new home.

It was December when they reached the railroad station in Delta and Al's brother, Oliver, brought them to the new home in a lumber wagon equipped with sledboards. About 85 years later, Winnie Miles Lane could still remember the bitter cold weather. Even though she was wrapped in a quilt and sat in the bottom of the wagon, she was cold and "soaked" all the way home.

The next Sunday Al took his new family for a ride to see the country, and by a circuitous route brought them to the top of a hill overlooking the ranch. He asked his new little daughter how she would like to live on the rich ranch they could see in the valley. She told him she thought it would be just fine, and she couldn't understand why he laughed. She didn't recognize their own ranch.

The Brookbanks were extreme when it came to height. Al was over six feet tall and was always thin, while Annie was plump and was never more than four foot seven. When they rode together in a cart or buggy he always put in a box for her on which to rest her feet.

Bert Lowe married Winnie in 1926 and later homesteaded 40 acres adjoining the Brookbank homestead. She remembered when Cedaredge was composed of the post office operated by Mary Reinhold, the John Wettersch, Fred Yarr and Bob Hickman cabins and the B. buildings. She also remembered roads but deep with mud in the spring, and inches deep with dust in the summer.

Winnie was an Army nurse and Bert was a Spanish American War veteran. He was bookkeeper for the Grand Mesa Water Users from 1925 until his death in 1935. For eleven years he was an orchardist.

CEDAREDDGE BANKS



Bank of Cedaredge built in 1906.

Organization for the first bank in Cedaredge was completed July 15, 1906. At the home of James Zanetti, on the Bar Ranch, the Bank of Cedaredge was capitalized at \$10,000, according to a timely article in the Surface Creek Champion newspaper.

In addition to Zanetti, stockholders were: A. and W.E. Stockham, Milard Fairbank, L.E. Wigran, H.W. Butler, F.P. Hart, H.K. Porter and J.B. Rakein. "All of these men of means and all are very enthusiastic about having such a good institution at Cedaredge." — Champion.

Plans were for Joe Hogue to be in charge, in the capacity of cashier. Temporary officials were A.H. Stockham, president and Fairbank. Excavation began for a new building 50 by 80 feet, with a basement of 30 by 50 ft. Originally, it was planned as a 2-story structure, but a second floor was not built. Upon completion, the west half was used by Blanchard and Stockham as a general store. Bank business was conducted in the northwest corner. A room on the south was for the post office and another one between bank and post office was a mortuary. The building now houses Brooks Service Station and warehouse.

The total deposits published February 14, 1908, showed the total deposits was \$21,868.72, but by November 1909, total deposits had increased to \$83,323.18.

The First National Bank originally started October 5, 1912 on the corner of Cedar Mesa and Main Streets. The building now is Edwards Sporting Goods and Western Wear.

According to a statement published on November 25, 1912, total



Two story First National Bank and Post Office buildings built in 1915.

resources were \$126,051. Roy A. Downs was the first cashier and C.W. Overhill, assistant.

The Bank of Cedaredge changed its name to the Cedaredge State Bank in 1913. As reported January 14, 1914 officials of the reorganized bank were: President, J.M. Turner; L.C. Bolton, vice president; H.A. Childs, cashier; and L.W. Casco, assistant cashier. Directors were listed as: Turner, F. Buritt, Frank Buzzard, H.A. Childs, J.F. Foster, Thos. Thompson, J.M. Cascoe, J.B. Lazar and E.J. Ginter.



First National Bank built in 1905

Cedaredge State and the First National Banks consolidated in January 1915 under the name, First National Bank. Roy Downs was the first cashier, with C.W. Overhill as assistant. When Downs later resigned, Overhill was appointed cashier a position he held until 1928.

A report of this new bank was published March 4, 1915, showing: Total resources, \$38,444.11. The board of directors included L.C. Bolton and J.B. Rakein.

The first report of resources over one hundred thousand dollars was in November of the first year it was in operation. The figures fluctuated a few thousand dollars until November 17, 1916 statement which recorded \$132,123.93. On November 1, 1918, the figure was \$256,146.73 and December 31, 1919 resources had increased to \$369,033.81.

P.R. Yeag preceded D.E. Eckert who became cashier in 1934, and retired in 1962. The vault door of the old Cedaredge State Bank was moved to the new offices in 1915.

In 1962 resources of the First National Bank were reported as \$1,387,419.63. Officials were: H.L. Palmer, president; Eckert, vice president and cashier; and D.V. Goss, assistant in addition to Eckert and Goss, other directors were E.A. Bull, M.E. Bull, B.F. Palmer, and H.L. Palmer.

Remodeling the building was the first of many face-lifting jobs done on old structures that changed the looks of the town of Cedaredge. While some people had nostalgic memories of the old, two-story building designated as the "Bank Center" since 1912, almost everyone agreed that the new building was very attractive and well planned for efficiency for bank employees as well as the public. A new bank complex included an adjoining building that had previously been used for a post office, since 1915, when a new one was constructed.

After D.E. Eckert's retirement in 1964, Leslie E. Kyle became executive vice president May, 1964. All of the remodeling was done after he joined the officials. Renovations began in July 1965 when Leonard Bodee and a crew of helpers removed the second story brick floor of the building. An upstairs large hall had been used at various times as a meeting place for Missions and also Odd Fellows Lodge, the Red and Gun Club and other organizations.

Reconstruction was planned to fit in the adjoining "Old" post office building with the new one. There would be a front office added to the new that then served as a post office, plus a large bookkeeping room in the rear of the building. An office for the president was north of the lobby. Upon completion of the reconstruction work, the spilling of the name was changed from First National to "1st National Bank, and remains the same today.



New First National Bank built in 1926.

During the building operations, a niche was discovered in the cornerstone which contained a quarter dated 1900, and a list of names of the original members of the board of directors. Dr. L.C. Bolton's name headed the list. Other officers were: H.A. Palmer, president; L.E. Kyle, executive vice president; Philip R. Aust, also vice president. Directors consisted of P.R. Aust, A.A. Brown, E.A. Bell, M.E. Bell, D.V. Gipe, L.E. Kyle, B.F. Palmer and H.L. Palmer. A statement listed total resources of the bank on December 31, 1905, as \$1,478,147.63.

The site of the first store built in Cedarvale in 1890 was chosen as which to build the National Bank building. It was extender from the old bank — across Highway 65, on Main Street. The project was completed and bank equipment moved into the new structure in June of 1915. The only objects moved from the old bank were the safety deposit boxes.

An attractive new 63 by 90 foot frame building, trimmed on the southeast corner with rock similar to that used in the former structure was designed for the convenience of both the public and the bank personnel. A computer type machine is used in figuring interest.

The most recent statement on condition of the bank, published December 31, 1976 sets total resources at \$6,372,257.70. The principle financial gain has come during the last seven or eight years when a goodly number of people are coming to Surface Creek Valley to retire. Many are building new homes.

Present bank officers are: D.H. Delaney, president; Donald V. Gipe, vice president and cashier; Wayne Elmer, vice president; Dorothy Hamilton, assistant cashier and Edith Strassel, assistant cashier. There are eight secretary-tellers and six bookkeepers. B.F. Palmer is president of the board of directors. Other board members are: A.A. Brown, M.E. Bell, D.H. Delaney, C.T. Fry and D.V. Gipe.

ALEXANDER KILE

Alexander (Ave) Kile was born in Philadelphia, Penn., in 1851, and came to Kigway, Colo., in 1880. A blacksmith by trade, he sharpened steel on the Otis Mesa. Tall road (now the Million Dollar Highway) above Gray. Later, when the Indians were moved to a reservation and the land opened to settlement, he moved up on a ranch east of Kigway. The 1880's were rough times and the worldly goods of the pioneer were few. He married Sarah Brammer in 1884, with a dollar in his pocket and a sack of flour in his grab box. This was probably true for he told it many times. They lived in a log cabin with a dirt floor on the land being cleared by him with a grub hoe during the winter and summer. He used to tell of wearing gaiters over his feet for some warmth during the winter. Until the ranch could produce, he supported his family, his wife Sarah, daughter Edith and son Charles by cutting and hauling fire wood to Gray to sell. Often he would do without dinner to have money for candy and treats for his children.

In 1917 he sold his ranch and moved to Cedarvale, where his son Charles Kile had succeeded him. He bought a home on two acres in the west part of town and lived there until his death in 1945, at the age of 94, his wife Sarah had preceded him in death in 1925. His son Charles

lived on a ranch on Kizer Creek, west of town and later operated a butcher shop in Cedarvale for a few years prior to moving to Grand Junction, Colo.

In 1920 his daughter, Edith with her two sons, Kile and Jack moved to Cedarvale and made their home with the old folks.

Granddaddy Kile, as he was affectionately called by those that knew him had worked hard all his life and in his later years he enjoyed playing pitch with his friends at the local "Dirty Moon" as he called it. Although his eyesight was very poor, his friends overlooked this fact.

An old pioneer friend and neighbor, Al Broadbank, came over frequently and their visitations would recount the old days of the 1880's and 90's around Gray and Telluride. Granddaddy often fell asleep during the conversation, but Al would wait and their talks would continue. Too bad these experiences were not noted for future historians.



Alexander Kile

LUTHER AND THRESE CLOSSON

Luther and Thresa Closson with their six daughters came to Cedarvale in 1892 and located on a ranch east of Cedarvale and the foot of the great Cedar Mesa Grade. While developing his land, Closson secured employment at the Bar I Ranch, as did many of the homesteaders around the turn of the century. James Zaninetti was the manager and probably saved the life of one of Zaninetti's daughters.

The incident occurred after dinner at the "Big House". With the rest of the ranch crew as Closson led the horse to return to work, he heard someone issuing from the "back house". He rushed to investigate the cause of such disturbing sounds and found one of the little Zaninetti girls had fallen through the toilet hole. Closson rescued her before her parents were aware of her predicament.

The first road to Cedar Mesa was believed to have been an Indian trail, located north of the present grade, it was very steep; so it crawled up the side of the mesa and a trace of it is visible for many years.

Records show that Bob James helped to survey the Cedar Mesa Grade with a long board and carpenter's level. Closson worked with the Cedar Mesa men to build the grade. They used picks and shovels until the trail was wide enough to employ horses and scrapers. Closson used his team of horses (named Bell and Seal) on a small scraper to move rocks and earth. When the road was wide enough for them to do so, other men with six horses pulled the big scraper. The road has been widened and improved through the years, but the pitch of the grade remains the same as when it was first built.

Closson's daughters were: Ida Hamilton, Myrtle Maxwell, Jessie Cook, Mabel Lowell, Clara Lehigh and Madeline Ansel.

METHODIST CHURCH



Cedarvale United Methodist Church formerly called Community Methodist Church.

Twenty citizens of the Methodist Episcopal faith met at the home of Ernest Wolfe, Sr. 75 years ago to form a church group. The Reverend John Doh of Delta organized a church body on February 26, 1897. The following year, Reverend F.A. Briggs moved his family to Cedarvale, and he became the first pastor of the new church.

The group met in homes until their first structure was built. The Wolfe brothers, Will Kiser and other members erected a church across the road from the Wolfe ranch, on land now owned by the Kuo Graces. The men brought logs from Grand Mesa, hewed them into building logs, laid up the building and the members had an attractive house of worship. A cemetery was started on the west side of the site.

In 1906 the log building was moved to Cedarvale where it was set up on the southeast side of the present school grounds. Work of moving the building was done by Reverend B.F. Koss with the help of male members. Graves were moved to Cedarvale cemetery a few years later.

The first log building served as an elementary school almost from the time it was built. After it was moved to Cedarvale it was still used for classes for about 15 years.

The Methodist congregation soon outgrew the little log church, and around 1914 it was sold to the school district. The congregation held services in the State Bank hall and later in a tabernacle they constructed, about a block south of their present structure.

The Cedarvale Methodist Episcopal church and the Cedarvale Community Church members formed a merger on February 26, 1917. It became known as the Cedarvale Community Methodist Episcopal Church. In order to more clearly indicate the kind of character of faith held among them Articles of Agreement and Declaration of Faith were written and adopted by the new group.

The church was placed under the supervision of the Colorado Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and all of its property was to be held under the name, Methodist American Conference. All contributions for benevolent purposes were to go to the support of various benevolent boards of that denomination. Five Articles of Faith were adopted by the combined church group.

Services were held in the tabernacle for several years. Later, it was converted into a packing shed, and much later the construction material was used to build the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Kilo Hart.

During the tenure of the pastors of the Reverend Carpenter, 1919-1920, plans were made to construct the present building of native stone. Due to the epidemic of "flu" that winter, the work was not started until May 1920.

Dr. and Mrs. Mc Kendrick came to Cedarvale in 1920 for his health, when he was 77 years old. They stayed on, and he pastored the church until 1924.

Some people may have wondered why the basement walls were built so high, which made necessary the long flights of steps to reach the

sanctuary. Members who lived here at the time the church was built will tell them that the basement was planned to provide a place for the young people to play basketball and roller ball (this was before the high school gym was built). The basement has restrooms and a well equipped kitchen and dining room set up later.

A popular businessmen at that time organized what he called "Tough Day," and he brought in 30 men who did not go to any church. They contributed a day's work. He brought them back to donate work for another day to clear the pile of boulders.

Work continued on the building during the pastorates of ministers: Jack Stewart, 1924-25; Jack, 1926-27; Oyler, 1927-31. Work on the church was completed and dedicated five of Feb in 1929.

Pastors of the church since 1931 are: H.F. Ahrens, 1931-34; Rufus Weber, 1934-38; Supt. Howard P. Young, June to September, 1938; C.S. DeFendorf, September 1938-42; Paul Hamilton, 1942-45; C.A. Ault, 1945-51; Clyde Garhart, 1952-55; Lloyd Barnett, 1956-59; William Bowden, 1960-62; Henry Parmenter, 1962-63; Ray McKinley, 1963-64; W.L. Strong, 1964-68; Clay Winstead, 1968-70; Dr. Francis White, 1970-71; and the present pastor who came in 1973, Edward Paup. With his coming, the name of the church was changed to United Methodist Church. The first Methodist women's society, the Calendar Club, was organized January 22, 1918. The members were divided into 12 groups to plan meetings for each month, to represent the 12 months of the year. Mrs. Norma Taylor was the first president.

Beginning in 1920, club members conducted money-making projects to meet a pledge of \$1,000 to be used for a new building project. In 1923 they served 38 dinners and banquets in the old IOOF hall. From several farm sales they staged, they cleared \$107.70 on one sale that year.

After the Women's Society of Christian Service was formed in 1940, the members of the Calendar Club decided to resign and become one with them. The first meeting under the new name was held in October 1940. Now it is the United Methodist Women's Society. They make a project of quilting and also of collecting worn, used clothing, dishes and such items to sell in the Thrift Shop they sponsor especially for the migrant workers during fruit harvest.

BAPTIST CHURCH

In the month of October, 1904, Mrs. Charlton donated two lots for the erection of a new Baptist Church in Cedarvale. Mrs. M. Fish of Delta and 29 women of the Baptist faith met to make plans for the organization of a Baptist church group.

General assembly was held January 26, 1905, with 29 active members. The Reverend Mr. Fish of Delta officiated. Their first Sunday school was held on May 12, 1905.

The group met in the Cedarvale Hall during the winter, but in May they bought a large tent to use for a church until their new sanctuary was constructed. The tent they referred to as a tabernacle.

Services were held in their new building before it was completed. This



Baptist Church built in 1905 and new sanctuary built in 1960.

was a Christmas observance in December 1906. There was heat in the building as everyone was comfortable during the special program.

Dedication rites were held October 31, 1909. The Reverend M.R. Cox was the minister of this first church built in Cedargade.

First Baptist pastor was the Reverend Betts, from 1905-06. The next two were the Reverends J.R. Geiger followed by Cox.

In 1911 the Reverend G.J. Terri was pastor for seven years. During this time, there was dissent within the group. Some of them with the Reverend Terri left the organization and started the Community Church. Later, they merged with the Methodists and became the Community Methodist Episcopal Church.

Other Reverends were: W.F. Cole, pastor from 1917-18; P.E. Fry, 1918-19; R.F. Glasson, 1919-22; R.W. Cleveland, 1923. There were several supply ministers before the Reverend A.S. Weeks served from 1925-28; C.R. Shackie, 1928-33; J.H. McCarty, 1933-34; C.C. Danson, supply pastor, 1934 and '35; McCarty returned for one year, 1936; O.P. Bishop, 1937-38; J.O. Sanders, 1939-40.

Then Arthur Biglow was pastor from 1941 to '43, at which time he volunteered and was accepted as an army chaplain. John Wood, February 1944 until 1948; Clyde Stratford the next seven years; R.D. McCray, 1953-57; Leslie Goodman, 1957-68. During the latter's tenure, a new sanctuary was constructed. The cornerstone was laid in 1950. Douglas Butler served for three years and the present pastor, G.H. Marink, has been here eight years.

The Cedargade church became an independent Baptist Church four years ago.

However, being missionary oriented, it has sent support donations directly to a large number of those engaged in such work.

The Women's Prayer group meets each Sunday afternoon for Bible study and prayer, and the Mission Society once a month. Both meet at the church where there is ample room. Nursery care is provided for the little children so young mothers can participate.

There is a special youth program. Once a week the Awana club presents programs of interest to them.

A portion of the original Baptist church building was destroyed by fire in the spring of 1942. Repair of the building completed, an annex with a full basement was constructed and dedicated in April, 1942. A large part of the basement was finished to use for a Fellowship hall and kitchen.

Eight of the men brought up as young people in the church activities have been ordained as Christian ministers and many other members became dedicated by workers.

CATHOLIC CHURCH



First Catholic Church, St. Ann's, was constructed as a dwelling, purchased for a church in 1912.

Early settlers in Surface Creek Country represented several religious faiths. For a good many years, util houses of worship were built, families with similar beliefs often met in private homes for spiritual encouragement.

The first Catholic families arrived in Cedargade during the early 1880's when Surface Creek Valley was sparsely settled. Living was frugal and roads were little better than trails.

The James McHugh family came in 1886 and settled on the first cash north of Trickle bridge. After them came the Zandovetz and Lovato families. During those years mass was usually held in the McHugh home once or twice a year. All of the members would be notified and gather together on the appointed day.



Second Catholic Church, St. Philip's, dedicated Sept. 22, 1908.

First to minister to the Catholics were missionary priests. Fathers Cook and Lawrence traveled great distances to meet with the small groups. Later on the priests came from the monastery in Delta, always by horse and buggy. Their mode of travel, together with the length of time it took to reach their destination, necessitated that they stay overnight.

In 1906 Father O'Connell, pastor at Montrose, came to Cedargade several times a year to meet with the families. By this time there were two altar societies in Delta County. One belonged to Miss Genevieve Hartig and her parents. They drove Father O'Connell to Cedargade several times to hold mass in various homes.

Between 1908 and 1910 five more Catholic families arrived in the area. They were the Welch, Smeathurst, W.S. Grant, Fred Goff and Ed Ginter families. During the years from 1910 to 1912 services were frequently held in the schoolhouse and in Cedargade Hall to accommodate the increased membership.

The Delta church was built in 1911. Then Father Nicholas Bertrand, Delta pastor, began to serve Cedargade as a mission.

The first Catholic church in Cedargade, St. Ann's, was constructed for a dwelling and purchased from Mr. Wagnon in 1912. Priests who succeeded Father Bertrand were Fathers Eger, Hilbig, Minot, Joseph Kane, Gilbeck and Norman.

By 1926 about 15 Catholic families were residing in the Cedargade area and the little church was almost filled to capacity for mass each Sunday. The Altar Society took part in many money-making projects for several years until the group felt there was enough money on hand to construct the Public Deeds Church, asking permission and help to build a larger, modern church.

All of their plans materialized when E.C. "Bill" Huff, a contractor with R.A. Rasmussen firm of Grand Junction, Colorado, was secured to build a \$30,000 structure to replace the small frame, much loved St. Ann's Church.

Fr. Huber erected closely with the builders and in the spring of 1928 the ground was broken and construction rites took place. The new structure would be erected north of the little frame church.

Along the new church, passers-by may notice a cross which seems to reach for the sky above Cedargade, a little mountain town at the foot of Grand Mesa. The planners intended the church to be a blend of religion

and countryside atmosphere — part of ad and akin to the trees, rocks and saguaro surrounding it.

New St. Ann's became St. Philip's. The reason for the name-change was that \$12,000 of the building funds was provided by Catholic Extension Service. By tradition, the donor was privileged to name the new church. St. Philip's Church was dedicated Sunday, September 22, 1928. Bishop Charles Buswell of Pueblo officiated in a dedicatory service. His assistant was Fr. Daniel Huber. Following the rites, Bishop Buswell held a coronation mass in the new church, after which the public was invited to attend "Open House."

In the interim since its construction, memorial funds and plaques for deceased members have been contributed. Through this plan the church was provided with a beautiful organ, Statues of the Cross and a lovely golden chalice.

Reverend Fr. Harold Ginter, son of Ed Ginter, a charter member of the church, was ordained a priest on June 13, 1929. When he retired he spent several years working at St. Philip's. On July 17, 1974 he died and within the year his sister, Dolores Ginter, passed away. She had contributed much time and service to the church.

Other priests who came to Cedargade were Fathers O'Laughlin, Mirron, Kelly, Wilmes and Janseth.

St. Philip's Church has a very active Altar Society which meets three every month.

The church congregation continues to grow — so much so that members are looking toward the future and making plans to build an addition to their beautiful church.

ECCKERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Prior to 1912, religious work had been carried on by several denominations in the Eckert community. A Presbyterian Church was organized in 1903 and Sunday school and church services were held in the Central school building. This church was dissolved in 1907.

There was interest for a merger of church interests in 1912, but this failed to materialize. In February the Methodists decided to disband.

People of the Presbyterian faith made plans to form a church family. On February 24, 1912, a meeting was held in the new Eckert High School and the members set out to organize a church. Through the leadership of the Reverend R.L. Lamb, pastor-avocaret for the Presbytery and J.L. Hunsicker, a Sunday school was established on March 23, 1913.

The Reverend Lamb presided the organizational sermon and 37 petitioners presented themselves as ready to band together into a church society. Robert McCalland and L.E. Smith were elected first elders, and R.K. Ferguson, W.L. Miller and Arthur King, trustees. The congregation called the Reverend Hunsicker to be the pastor.

The seed of a church home was increasingly felt as time went by. Church meetings were held at first in the old 100F Hall, above the blacksmith shop. The lodge required extra rent for evening services, which was a strain on the budget of the new group. After the hall burned, the Presbyterians met in the Nicholson building, located on the site of the present county maintenance shop. At one time there was talk of the church being built on the site, but the idea later was rejected.

At a meeting in June, 1915, it was voted to look for a building site and study plans for a church edifice. Much enthusiasm was shown by the people attending this meeting and about \$950 in cash was raised. The Reverend and Mrs. Hunsicker donated building lots valued at \$250 (where the church was later built). Women's Society offered its entire treasury of \$450, bringing a total of \$1,650 into the building fund. Members voted to immediately begin the program to build an attractive and suitable church.

October 17, 1915, was ground-breaking day. Following the morning church services, Mrs. Arthur King, "Aunt Becky" removed the first shovelful of earth on the construction lot. All through 1916 and '17 the church group worked to raise money to augment the building fund. A brick structure at first was considered, but when Arthur King and the



United Presbyterian Church of Eckert, Colo.

Reverend Hunsicker reported that they had located enough masonry rock to build three churches, this material was decided upon as the better. Men, women and children tamed out "Inn farms" to haul rocks by horse and wagon. By March 30, 1916 a Mrs. Hunsicker was able to begin the masonry work.

Two fortunate events occurred in April. Mrs. John Sturdevant drove Mr. Ferguson's team and on the 14th of the month every available person worked to haul 33 loads of mass rock so the masonry work could continue uninterrupted. From the Presbyterian Church Extension board on April 30th, a letter received stated that since all of the legal papers had proven satisfactory pertaining to a mortgage on the building, a loan would be granted. Enclosed in the envelope was a check for \$1,785.

By March, 1916, the basement was completed and railed. In spite of wartime and shortages, the church had paid its way. Membership totaled 90 at this time.

In the winter of 1918-19 all churches and schools were closed for many months most of the time. Pastor Hunsicker wrote in his diary "Only 27 services held all year."

When for the first time in a long period services could be resumed, the basement was where they were held, on June 15, 1919. The renovated water there was no heat there, so Eckert High School housed the worshippers.

On March 13, 1920, Pastor Hunsicker reported that \$4,500 had been paid on the church building for labor, and \$4,000 in material. Also, there was a debt of \$1,500 which amount was raised in pledges before the new church was dedicated June 3, 1921.

The first baptism was performed March 18 for the children of Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Phipps and Mrs. Edna Brewer; first wedding, Miss Olive Stanton and Cecil Norton. The first funeral service was held for Alfred White, son of Mr. and Mrs. H.B. White.

During the winter of 1919-20 the Young People's league met at the home of the Reverend and Mrs. Hunsicker for numerous social affairs and Sunday evening worship, and to plan community welfare projects. One was the printing of a small newspaper called the Eckert News, intended as an instrument of communication with the boys who were serving the country. The Reverend Hunsicker also organized and led a troop of Boy Scouts for a time and helped to organize a Christian Endeavor society for the youth.

A piano was purchased for the church in 1920. The masses to buy it

was joined party by a Sandy egg-dyeing contest, headed by Misses Echo Smith and Hazel Kinzel. Some of the parents were heard to complain that their hens seemed to lay well only on Sundays.

Choir music of the Eckert Church has been a matter of pride through the years. The Reverend Husickie was the director from the very beginning until he retired from public life at the age of 87 years. Since then, Mildred Polack has directed the choir with remarkable success.

The Women's Society was active from the time it was organized. Mrs. Husickie reported at an annual meeting April 3, 1923, that the group had raised the sum of \$1,022 and paid it out in the interest of missions and local church needs.

The church structure was completed and dedicated free of debt on June 5, 1921. The Reverend D.H. Fouse of Dover preached the dedicatory sermon.

In 1922, Herbert Chase of Delta presented a gift of shade trees. A committee appointed to set them out included Mark L. Beard, J.E. Polack and Mrs. J.W. Stolt.

A Christmas program, planned for December 23, 1925, was postponed because of a seven-inch snowfall. At this time the church was heated with coal-burning stoves. One was in the basement and two in the sanctuary. A new furnace system was installed in 1936.

The Reverend Husickie supported his family after 1911 by teaching and serving as superintendent, first at Eckert and later at Cedarwidge. Without the unflinching devotion of the pastor and his wife, without their self-slagging determination, encouragement and leadership, the Eckert church could not have survived.

The church received Jews and light fixtures from the Presbytery when the church of the same faith at Converse was dissolved, in 1941. They added much to the worship atmosphere of the church sanctuary.

Mrs. Kate Husickie preceded her husband in death January 13, 1942 — a great loss to the church and community. Through the years she had been a helpmate to her husband and a leader in Sunday school and Women's Society.

On April 6, 1940 the Reverend Husickie's resignation was accepted by church officials but he was appointed pastor emeritus, without salary or authority. He preached his farewell sermon May 10, 1940, but was called upon to do so, he occupied the pulpit many times afterwards.

Pastor from May 1941 to April 1945 was the Reverend Leon K. Brown. During his tenure the church secured a reproduction by Earl Hornbeck of Hoffman's painting, "Christ in Gethsemane." It hangs above the chancel.

A student from Oberlin University, Germany, Trent Davidson occupied the pulpit in the summer of 1946. He was ordained and installed as pastor on March 5, 1947.

Ground-breaking for the new manse was dated April 11, 1948. The Reverend Husickie dug through three or four inches of snow to turn over the first shovel of earth. The Reverend filled the pulpit during the absence of Pastor Davidson when he was called to work with World Service camps in Germany.

In 1949, the manse was completed. Built on the back of the lot next to the church, it was of the same type masonry rack. Pastor Davidson returned from Europe and married Miss Leffell Pealy. Wedding ceremonies took place in the Eckert Church, with the Reverend Husickie officiating. The bride and bridegroom were the first occupants of the manse. During the pastorate of the Reverend Davidson the church organ and pipe organ were purchased. Davidson ordinated his parsonate in 1953. From that year until January 23, 1956 the Reverend John E. R. Foster (wife, Laccayo) was pastor. Dr. Emmerich Coe of Paris served as interim pastor for 15 months. His wife, Edith, worked especially with youth groups. The doctor trained several young people to play the organ. Later, he filled the pulpit many times during the absence of pastor. The Reverend Richard K. Baker (wife Shirley) served from June 1955-59.

In July of 1959 Pastor Emeritus James A. Husickie died at the age of 91 years. As a memorial to him, the Husickie family gave to the church a new altar cross and silver baptismal bowl — still treasured by the membership.

The year after the Reverend Husickie's death, July 1950 until July 1961, pastor of the church was William Brown.

Following a merger of the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Presbyterian Church MA in 1961, the local church name was changed to Eckert United Presbyterian Church USA.

The Reverend J. Fredrick Speer was installed as pastor on October 15, 1961. His wife, Gertrude, was a talented musician who reorganized the choir.

Dr. Coe filled in as interim pastor for several months until Dr. Francis White and his wife came in 1970. The Reverend Ed Paup has been pastor since 1973.

The Eckert Presbyterian Church has a "yoked" relationship with the Cedarwidge United Methodist Church in that both share the same pastor and his salary expenses.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



First Seventh-day Adventist Church built in 1915

A pioneer group of Seventh-day Adventist faith held services for several years in private homes and the old Fennell schoolhouse before they were organized into a church body, August 15, 1903. The minister who led out in organizing the new church was Elder George O. States who emigrated from Michigan to Delta County. Originally there were 11 members.

Surface Creek Valley early-day settlers were naturally concerned with raising crops and livestock and providing for their families, but they also gathered together in religious groups for spiritual strength. The 11-member group met for several years in different homes and the schoolhouse, east of Cedarwidge where they organized the church, eventually.

The only charter member of the church still living in 1977 is Mrs. Avey (Goddie) Myer who lives in a nursing home in St. Helena, California. Wilford States, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. States, and grandson of Elder George O. States, is a member of the church in 1977. Lila Beach is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D.T. Selkowitz who were members when the first Adventist Church was built in 1915. Hazel Astell's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Baker's membership dates back to 1903.

As the years passed, the new church group continued to hold services



Second Adventist Church dedicated in 1957.

in the schoolhouse and homes until 1911 when they needed a store-front building. Location was that of the present Coak Service station. In 1914 members bought building lots from the Stockton brothers on the corner of Second and Center streets in Cedarwidge for the site of the new building.

Wgl Skoulin contracted to furnish cement blocks. Robert Wallace of Holtsville was head carpenter, and the male members of the church helped in whatever capacity they could. Mrs. Wallace donated a bell that is still used in the new church.

The sanctuary was completed and dedicated on August 15, 1915. Unique in design, the six-sided building was planned with the sanctuary on the first floor and a room in the basement for a parochial school. The shape of the building made enlarging it impossible. The first parochial school started in September, 1915, with Miss Lena Hough as the first teacher.

The size of the congregation gradually increased and in 1934 glass was drawn for a completely new structure to be constructed west of the first church. Members did not have funds to buy material needed for the new building, so they did the next best thing — they cut their own lumber.

Men, women and children spent a good many days on 25 Mesa preparing lumber for their house of worship. Large Ponderosa pine trees were cut and sawed into lumber at Neil Jones' sawmill, to provide material for the 32 by 60 foot structure. It was then hauled to the new site. On some days they cut as much as 4,000 board feet — on others not so much. An approximate total of 30,000 board feet of lumber was cut at the mill.

Except for cement work for the basement and help with framing, all of the carpenter work was done by members of the congregation, several of whom had carpenter skills. The first service was held May 21, 1955.

Cedarwidge Adventists share their pastors with the Delta and Placerville churches of the same faith. W.M. Anderson, now 93 years old and living in Placerville, was pastor when the first church building was built; Pastor J.I. Dugler served when the second one was erected and C. Ray What is the present minister.

Local elders conducted the services in the absence of the pastor. Some members who served as local elders were: Pastor George O. States, Isaac Powell, I.E. Baker, Judice A. Baker, Pastor F.S. Cholier, Arthur Carter, J. Sherrill and Owen Gouverts. There were also Ernest Rogers, Lester Patton, leader, Stephen B. Doley, Earl Patton, Roy Grubbs and Floyd Putzer also served. In recent years there are three assistant elders. They are: Ratan, Pastor Bryan Votaw and George Gathalos.

A new community service center building east of the church is almost completed. The women's group, formerly known as the Debus Society, is now the Community Health and Welfare Society. The women will use the new building for community service activities.

FROM WINE TRUSTEE TO SANCTUARY

The Assembly of God Church was organized in 1936 with no church home. Members met in the building that now houses the Little Cedar Cafe. At that time it was used for Hall's Morbury Chapel.

Several years later, 1940-41, a basement was dug on North Fifth Street. It was railed and used for church services for a number of years thereafter. Alfred Lloyd and Herman Hawkins helped to dig the basement.

During the pastorate of the Reverend Forest Hiss, the members learned of an old mine trestle that was being offered for sale. The trestle crossed the canyon near Ophir. It was believed that enough lumber could be sawed from the huge timbers to build the top of the church.

Lyle and Besse Brooks made the payment for the old mine trestle and members set about taking it to pieces. One man lost his life when he slipped while at work on it in the rain, and he fell into the canyon below. The huge timbers had been crosscutted and were so long and heavy that Brooks could only haul three or four at a time, using Sid Shady's low-boy to bring them to Mahanah's sawmill, east of Cedarwidge. Here the timbers were sawed into lumber, providing enough building material to construct the present attractive sanctuary, above the old cement basement.



ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

A complete list of the pastors of the Assembly of God Church is not available, and a partial list follows. Names listed are not necessarily in the order of their pastorate: Reverends Summers and Tisdell were co-pastors, and others were: Kenneth Files, Dotson, Jackson, Graham, E.E. Westwood, Bradwell for six months; Westwood returned for one year; Elliot, six years; Morie, six months; and the Reverend Phil Neely is the present pastor.

The first physician in Surface Creek Valley, Dr. Egglestone, came to Ory in 1901. It is reported that he owned the first car in Delta County. It was a small one-seated car and instead of a wheel, was guided by a stick. It has a steam engine, fueled by gasoline. From the engine there was a chain drive to the wheels. By 1937 there were 5 car owners in Delta County. Before Dr. Egglestone bought his car he used a motorcycle, also the first in the county.

The Star Nelson ranch was not active in Surface Creek County, but it was located south of the "Point" of Grand Mesa and north of Highway 50. His family lived on the ranch in the summer, in the "bees" and '82, but moved into Delta during school time.

Of the 5,000 acre ranch, about 300 acres was in cultivation. He raised alfalfa and sold it to sheepmen, who were pasturing their sheep on the desert in the winter. Some times the sheep were fed in his corals. The present owner of the ranch is Mr. Turner. Star Nelson became well known for his skill as a pilot. The first Delta Air Port was named for him.

COALBY OLD TIMERS CLUB



COALBY CLUBHOUSE

A group of friends met on January 15, 1966, at the old Coalby Clubhouse, over 5 miles northwest of Cedarvale to spend an afternoon visiting and reminiscing about old times. Some of them had not seen each other for several years. All of their parents were early settlers in the Coalby community.

Those present who came to the area the earliest were: Leon Reed, in 1895; Helen Fickes-Mitchell, 1896; Lotus Alonah, 1901; Mrs. Myrtle Kitch and her two daughters, Mary Morris of Delta and Celie Westreich of Cedarvale, 1905; Archie and Effie (Myers) Peterson, 1905. Group members set a carriage to Mrs. Nina Peterson-Aldridge who lives east of Coalby. She is believed to be the first white child born in the Cedarvale area, in 1888.

At the gathering in the clubhouse, letters were read from: Max Warner of Blanding, Utah, and her sister Lenore Watson-Eggers of Oregon. Both are daughters of Andrew Watson, one of the pioneers who helped to build up the town of Coalby. The letters revealed that Andrew Watson brought his family to this area in 1934 and bought the Stone ranch and coal mine, west of Brimstone Grove. He dreamed of building up a community for pioneer Kansans who wished to come West.

True, there was only a one-room schoolhouse, no post office, no telephone system, and the roads were practically no-existent in the winter and early spring; but the soil was good — the air invigorating. Warner wrote to the post office department and petitioned for one to be named Coalby, because of the nearby coal mines. (He had lived near Coaly, Kansas, before coming to Western Colorado.) His request was granted in the spring of 1965 and the Watsons set up the post office. Together with a stock of groceries, the Watsons were in business in an old log cabin, near the family log house.

Post office and supplies were transferred to Frank Fickes on March 31, 1967. Witness was A.V. Brown. The Watson family's Kansas neighbors were the Geuge Pratts, Arnold and Ray Pratt and the Harty and John Stillwagons. They all re-located to the new Coalby community.

When they arrived, settlers who were already in the valley included the following families: Todd, Myers, Patton, Dossiers, Rowells, Fickes, Roggs, Ick, Mrs. Welby, Blossom, Westreich, Kupeshawer and Weber and Rice January.

To the group that met in 1966 at the old Coalby clubhouse, Mrs. Warner's letter recounted an incident when the roads and grades were only one track in most places. Soon after Christmas of 1905 when the Watsons first came with their heavy wagon piled high with baggage, they met O.L. Stillwagons driving a horse and buggy on Dooley grade. Both vehicles halted. The horse on the buggy was unhitched, the buggy was pulled off the road against a big rock and the Watson wagon continued

on its way. Stillwagon hitched his horse. The folks who had happy and "went on their way rejoicing," according to the letter writer.

Another story, Mrs. Warner, told about a cowgirl, Leona Todd who was handy with a lariat and roped a "reindeer" visitor.

The old Coalby dance hall, 75 by 60 feet, was built west of the store and was of a similar design. The one-inch maple flooring in the hall was removed many years later and used as a floor in the home of Sid and Doretha (Fickes) Shoup, north of Eckert.

Guests at the 1966 community gathering recalled other long-gone dances and fireworks that were staged in the hall. Nearly everyone in the community turned out for the get-togethers. At one side of the room, tables were set up as beds for babies and small children who slept while parents took part in the evening festivities.

One time a banquet was served for 100 people, well-wishers celebrating the birthdays of Frank Fickes and Mrs. Baker (mother of Dorothy Babler). Another time community members threw a party for the mail carrier, L.E. Deign, and his wife. Also held annually at the hall were the Fourth of July picnics attended by nearly everyone. One year a pavilion was set up on the hill east of the present home of the C.E. Stein family and about 150 people were there, including some from Cedarvale, Astin and Delta.

Other early-day residents who were present at the 1966 party were: Mrs. Elmer Roberts, first president of the Coalby club. She had been in Coalby since 1925. Mrs. Eda Westley and her daughter, Edie McDemott, 1910; Don Adams, 1925; Dorothy Barber, 1922; Florence Elliott and her daughter, Rosewood Pappoe, 1923; Helen Gabriel, 1935; and Hazel Baker-Austin, who had come to a nearby community in 1902.

Eda Peterson-Pattin who could not attend the party set word that she arrived in Coalby as the bride of Lloyd Pattin in 1908, but had visited there many times before their marriage. As a little girl, she attended Daybreak school, south of the community.

Lloyd and Eda moved to the Brimstone place with a four-hitch wagon loaded with household goods. The road was almost half deep, and the horses got stuck with the load. Muddy roads were commonly experienced by early settlers. The Pattons leased the Red Canyon coal mine in 1914, which they later bought and operated for about 40 years. They were active participants in neighborhood affairs.

About 1912, the Coalby store was closed and the Fickes family moved west.

In 1922 they returned, and Fickes fixed up the old building to make a home for himself. He lived there until his death in 1938.

The Coalby club was organized in 1927 and meetings were held in the homes of the members for several years. The group finally relocated to a place that few homes could accommodate them. After World War II the old store building was offered to the members for a clubhouse. The women cleaned and fixed it up with window curtains and floor covering, benches, tables and a well-equipped kitchen. The meeting place housed many community gatherings other than the Coalby club, but was not used very frequently after 1950.



Coalby Club Old-Timers

Back row — Dorothy Fickes Shoup, Florence McCarg Brooks, Leon Reed, Eda Westley McDemott, Max Pratt, Raul, Celie Kitch Westreich, Mary Kitch Overhals, Archie Peterson, Helen Fickes Mitchell, Fritz row — Lotus Alonah, Florence Elliott, Mrs. Elmer Roberts, first Coalby Club president, Daisy Pratt, Eda Westley, Edie Peterson, Margaret Westreich Blossom.

HARRY PALMER

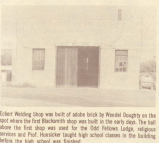


Harry L. Palmer and Grace McDowell Palmer Wedding picture, 1915

Born in Denver, graduated from high school in New Mexico, Harry Palmer came to Cedarvale in 1911, when he was 19 years old. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. F.M. Palmer, bought 20 acres of land northwest of Cedarvale. Known as the Top Fisher place, it consisted of 10 acres of apple trees in production and 10 acres of trees almost ready to bear fruit. Grace McDowell, born and educated in Pennsylvania, came to Cedarvale in 1914 to help care for her sister-in-law who was the wife of the Reverend McDowell. Grace became acquainted with Harry Palmer while she was living in Cedarvale, but returned to Pennsylvania to teach school for a year. Then she came back and the couple was married on August 18, 1915.

The newlyweds started housekeeping in a one-room house on his parents' place. Later they bought the house and made several additions to it. Their three children, Miles, Beccus and Thelma were born there. Harry got his start in the fruit business when he took a contract of apples to New Orleans for Jim Caldwell, known at that time as the "Apple King" because of the quality of fruit his orchards produced.

Palmer and Josie formed a partnership in 1929 and bought several farms with producing orchards. They purchased a total of 550 acres.



Eckert Welding Shop was built of adobe brick by Wendel Dougherty on the spot where the first Blacksmith shop was built in the early days. The ball store the first shop was used for the Old Fellows Lodge, religious services and Prof. Hunsicker taught high school classes in the building before the high school was finished.

included were 450 acres in apples. Palmer and Company bought out Joslin in 1943 and in 1952 bought the Bob Starr holdings.

Harry retired 20 years ago and his two sons, Beccus and Miles, took over his interests in Palmer and Company. Miles was killed in an accident in 1972. The company still has 450 acres of apple, plus 12 in peaches and 27 acres producing pears.

Packing sheds were built on several of the fruit farms Palmer and Company owned. It was here that the fruit grown on the acreage was processed. In 1977 all of the fruit from the company orchards are run through the "Palmer Tonn Shed."

Several years after Grace passed away Harry and Florence Halbrook were married in 1972. Harry passed away April 13, 1974.

CECARENEE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Old-timers remember seeing the old horse box cart as it was pulled by Volunteer Firemen to put out fires in the new town of Cedarvale. The first motorized vehicle, a Chevrolet fire truck was purchased by the town in 1921. Some of the early Volunteer Firemen were Ed Watson, C.W. Brewer, John Crawford, Bob James, Jess Hagreys, Jesse Patterson, Glenn Uhart and V.A. Phillips.

The story is told of the time the Volunteer Firemen were called to put out a fire that had started in a shed behind the Bar 1 Barn. Several men were needed to pull the cart through the mud, which was nearly a foot deep in places. In their haste to reach the fire one of the men lost his footing and fell flat on his face in the mud.

The old horse box was housed in a tin shed, north of Anderson's Market parking lot. A ramp was provided for the fire truck when the City Hall was built in 1931. The new fire station was built in 1964.

The Cedarvale Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1953, celebrated their fifth anniversary, in 1965.



First Cedarvale Volunteer Firemen's Horse Cart. Ken Dolph and Warren Brewer are pictured here. Hazel Austin photo.

The north end of the Cedarvale Fire Station was built on the corner of Main and Center Streets in 1964. Pats Lovato was Fire Chief at that time. An addition was built on the south side of the station in 1972.

The Cedarvale Volunteer Firemen still have one of their two original hand carts and an old red truck they use only for District Field Day activities. Their working equipment in 1977 included four vehicles: a water tank and three pumpers.

The old Fire Department bell tower was located on the spot where the Cedarvale library now stands. After the Town Hall was built, the east side of the building was finished for a garage where the Fire Department kept equipment and a fire truck, until the Fire Station was built in 1964.

ECKERT SCHOOLS



Eckert Central School was called the "Central School" as it was built in the central location of the district. The building is now the home of the Wayne George family.

ECKERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL — It is recorded that in the fall of the year 1884 Captain Sawdick taught a short term of school in a cabin on the Scullien place. Directors of the school were John Brown, "Doc" Gray and James Shel. Designated as District No. 8, it was inclusive of all land from Upper Surface Creek Crossing northeast, to the Gasline River on the south, and extending from Rogers Mesa on the east to the Dough Soap on the west.

The following Springtime, the Captain taught another term in a log house near Eckert, now occupied by the Farrow family. The house was built by Will Foster to make a home for Miss Angie West, his bride-to-be. By permission of this gracious pioneer woman, school sessions were held in one of the rooms.

"In 1885 the first room of the Eckert Elementary School was built. The directors rested on their laurels, satisfied that no further housing would be required. Seven years later, however, in 1902 the demands for more room became imperative, and a room was added to the south (SouthEast room). This time the directors felt the need and had certainly been satisfied, yet before the year was over the room was overcrowded and a 1907 another room was added on the southwest. At this rate of growth a room would be needed every two years." Comments of the Surface Creek Champion newspaper in 1907.

The Eckert Elementary or Central School of District 18, had such a large enrollment in 1905 that four teachers were hired to take care of the teaching load in the four-room school. The principal, J.M. Taylor and S.H. Fisher both taught for the first four years; Machine Smith, two years and Mabel Allen, the first year.

In 1906 new teachers were Augusta Riggs and Ethel Hickman. 1907 — Emma G. Myers was county superintendent. New teachers were Mrs. F.A. Briggs and Clara Potts, who taught for two years. 1908 — New teachers Emmeline Blodgett and Ruth Deams. 1909 — Mildred Anderson was county superintendent. C.W. Lanning was principal for the next two years. New teachers were Anna Mandelheit, Lucy H. Benefield, Ethel Walker for three months, Vera Rogers five months, and Winifred Warden taught for a two-year period.

In 1910 the first two years of high school were maintained by tuition paid by students, and classes were held in one room of the Central School with Miss Bell Gleason as teacher. The following year, 1911, the school district assumed the expenses incurred for high school students' classes and J.A. Hunsicker was the teacher. Attendance was in the 100F hall above a blacksmith shop.

In 1912 C.W. Lanning was principal of the Central School for a two year period. New teachers: Belle Gleason, Ethel Steel, Georgia Richardson

and Winifred Warden. 1912 — J.A. Hunsicker taught high school in the 100F hall above the blacksmith shop, prior to completion of a new high school. Della E. Aikman taught grades one through four; Annie R. Parker and Kate Myers grades five through eight; and Esther B. Seefelt was teacher for three months. Eckert high school teachers were: 1913 — J.A. Hunsicker, also superintendent and Jennie Pester, 1914 — Ernest T. Hale, principal, and Warren Sheffedy, 1915 — J.A. Hunsicker superintendent; W.T. Artt, principal; and Gertrude Miller taught for two years.



Eckert High School built in 1902. The high school closed in 1945 and the building was used for Eckert Elementary grades. 1945 grades one, two and Kindergarten meet at the school.

1917 — W.T. Artt was principal. New teacher was J.P. Phigony who taught for a period of two years. 1918 — J.A. Hunsicker returned to the school as superintendent, and held the position until he transferred to Cadogan in 1924. J.P. Phigony and Gertrude Miller returned to Eckert to teach. 1919 — 1920: The only report is that Grace Cummings was county superintendent. 1921 — Hunsicker was superintendent and also a teacher with Mrs. Gertrude Miller-Kelmeier and Vera L. Berry.

1922 — New teacher, Ross R. Anderson. 1923 — Niles Burnett, county superintendent. Teachers were Hunsicker, Eric D. Robinson and Mrs. Eri D. Robinson. 1924 — Hunsicker became superintendent of Cadogan High School and Joe E. Hardy, principal of Eckert High. The other teachers were Virginia Warriner, James Patton (later head of the Farmers Union) and Catherine Patton. 1925 — Hardy was principal for two years and Virginia Hardy taught two years. The other high school teacher was James Brown. Paul Phigony taught grades seven and eight. 1925 — New teachers, Alice Landon, Cary Dohm and Marie Carter were Central School teachers; Mrs. Carter later taught in Cadogan Elementary.

1927 — Principal was J.K. Griffin; teachers, Marjolee Pollard and Marjorie Harrison. 1928 — All teachers returned, and R.I. Hopkins taught for two years. 1929 — Hopkins was principal. Ruth O'Donald taught four years and Dorothy D. Romig, one. 1930 — George Berg, principal; Mrs. Harrison (Dorothy D.) Bull, seven years. Catherine Hunsicker, grades five and six; and Ruth Gize, grades three and four. Ruth Berg taught grades one through three.

1931 — Florence Weeks was county superintendent. William Lancaster, principal for three years; other teachers were Leila B. Corbin. 1932 - 1933 — Hazel Lovell, county superintendent. All teachers returned to Eckert High School and Gertrude Lancaster taught in 1933. In the year 1934 — Wayne Bratton was superintendent. New teachers, Bruner Hunsacker, math; Dorothy Bull, English; Lela B. Corbin, grades seven and eight; and Marie Carter, primary.

1935-37 — E.H. Nevada was superintendent. Other teachers: Dorothy D. Bull and A.B. Hunsicker, including a new one in 1937, Helen



"Old Wagon" Hauls Mesa to Eckert

Wick-Gillon who taught Home Economics and English. 1938 — The new teaching staff was comprised of: L.F. Hirsch, principal; Ella Pyle, Walter Deering and Arny Dewis who taught a commercial course and English. 1939 — Dorothy Johnson was county superintendent and George J. Bole served as principal for two years. Walter Downing taught for three years and Ella Pyle for two. 1940 — G.J. Bole, principal. New teacher was Dorothy King. 1941 — Martha Swager was county superintendent. John Graham was the principal and a new teacher was Virginia Culp.

1942 — Marvin Nunn, principal; teachers, Dorothy Ellen Simon, Hettie Le Nevey, Julia S. Chabac and Max Cary. Eckert School closed because teachers were not available, and high school students in the Eckert area were bused either to Cadogan or Delta High Schools.

MOUND SCHOOL



Mound (or Rim) School at Cary. The brick section at left in picture was built in 1912 and used for a school house until districts consolidated in 1924. Orchard City Women's Club and other groups used the building for meetings. The Women's Club built the addition, the part to the right in the picture. The building has been utilized as a dwelling for several years.

The Mound School, situated north of Cary, started educating youngsters in 1886 after Mr. and Mrs. Young presented a gift to the newly founded school district No. 18. The donation was land on which to erect a school building. The lot was to be the property of the district as long as it was used for the specified purpose.

The first schoolhouse was an 18 by 30 foot log building. A lot of 20 miles was voted to be paid in cash. By that time, Mr. Gow was the only settler whose land had been patented, so his part of the tax was very large, being \$72.

Names of many children who attended this school were found in the later development of Delta County. Some of the students were: Charles Parker, Bill Stahl, Henry and Tange Oliver, George and Bertha Harshman, Charles and Lee Drysdale, Eli and Marion Konecinski, Hattie and McKinley Wenger, Will and Alice Griffin, Arch Hawker, Raymond Phoenix, Abe Reynolds, Pete Shock, Fred, Gertrude and Emmet Young and The Beckley children.

By 1912 Surface Creek Mesa had down so many settlers that the tiny schoolhouse would no longer hold the children, so a brick building was constructed (south half of the present building). The one large room had folding doors — sometimes half of the room was used for teacher living quarters. The district area was reduced to new allocations and now covered only the lower part of Surface Creek Mesa and Tongue Creek. Some of the goods attending classes at the new building were Spaul and Evelyn Gray, George and Maxine Harshman, Norman Konecinski, Betty Horton, Gilbert Doughty, Ethel and Louise Fengerich and Dudley Dixon.

Among the teachers who taught at Mound were: Mrs. Veltan, Less Stewart, Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Elsie Thomas, Mrs. Benefield, Miss Mattie Miller, Bertrice Rowland and Bessie Griffin, who was the last teacher at the Mound schoolhouse.

With a consolidation of schools in the county in 1924, Mound and Fairview were combined and all of the children went to the Fairview School.

Since Mound building was no longer to be used, the board bought the land on which it stood at a price of \$300, from Mrs. Young. The land was taken to the Austin Baptist Church. The Women's Club of Cary was given permission to use the building for their meetings.

There was strong community spirit among the Cary residents who felt the need for a recreational building larger than the one-room schoolhouse could provide. Therefore, the Women's Community Club set about raising enough money to enlarge it.

With various endeavors, they finally raised \$1,500 which was used to buy materials. By means of this fund and donated labor, the building was enlarged.

All kinds of local activities were held in the building which had been expanded to twice its original size, including a stage, kitchen and dining room. Box supper and other diversified events were held such as dances, amateur plays, wedding parties, church meetings, seasonal services and also, for several years the Fairview School used it as an auxiliary in which programs and eighth grade graduation exercises were staged.

Orchard City Women's Club eventually assumed the task of maintaining the building to use for their events and gave a 20-year lease. In 1962 District No. 50 school board gave the club a gift claim deed.

At the time west by the club members found themselves with wider commitments and the building was used less frequently for social gatherings. Finally the club members felt they could no longer maintain the building, and it was put up for sale and thereafter was used as a dwelling.

Thus, the old Mound school building remains undestroyed and retains most of its original beauty of design.

TRICKLE SCHOOL, 1900

Robert Trickle and two sons Jack and John came to upper Surface Creek Valley in the early 1880's. Robert pre-empted on land about one quarter mile south of the Trickle Divide. He later sold his land to Ben Sheldrick. The road going from Eckert to the upper country cut through his land.

Before 1898 Trickle dedicated an acre of land to the School District for a school. The Trickle land on the east side of Highway 85 is now owned by Gerry Gerdeth and the land on the west side is now a housing development. The land Trickle dedicated for a school was in the southwest corner of the property on the east side of the road.

At that time land could be sold, or given to the district outright for a school or it could be dedicated to the district for the life of the school. Since the land where the school stood for over 50 years is now part of Schenck's fields it was probably given for the life of the school, and after it was no longer used, it reverted back to the property owner.

One record shows that the Eckert Baptist Church met in the Trickle Schoolhouse before 1899. Leon Reed's parents bought the property on



Back row — Sam Cole, Tom Jacques, Frank Hart, Arthur Lamar, Jesse Trickle, Roy Steel. Second row — Effie Goodie, Lizzie Reed, Mollie Zentis, Nora Reed, Maude Foster, Essie Jacques, Julia Zentis, Peg Hart, Olive Buzzard. Third row — Nora Trickle, Hattie Ross, Louise Stone, Esth Brown, Sarah Inks, Mary McKugh, right behind Sarah Inks, Florence McHugh, Wrennie Miles (Brookbank) Irene Senola, Ethel Steel, Olive Buzzard. Fourth row — Marie Hamilton, Gladys Collins, Myrtle Collins, Lora McKugh, Dannie Lamar, Madeline Polans, Nellie Foster, Glenn Collins, Clyde Lamar, Teacher Dan Daughtry. Front row — Frank Reed, Anada Polans, Vida Lamar, Donna Lamar, Leon Reed, Eloy Stone, John McKugh, Quincy Lamar, Clyde Reed, George Hamilton, Frank Foster. Trickle School was built in 1895. Dad Trickle donated land for the school as long as there was a school, then it would revert back to the owner of the land at that time.

the west side of the road, between the Trickle property and Surface Creek. Leon said he started school at Trickle in the late 1890's and it was in use for several years before that time.

Trickle School was probably built a short time before Pannell School, north of the Cedarage settlement. At that time they were the only schools in the upper Surface Creek Valley and children walked, or rode a horse or bawne, for several miles to attend one of the schools.

Part of the time two teachers taught in the little log school house. The Primary grades met in a wigwag that was built to the side. Some of the early teachers were LW Taylor, (an uncle of George Brown) who taught several years. Miss Madeline Smith taught the Primary grades one year. Other teachers were Miss Sarah Foster who later married Enoch Oipe and Mrs. Lucy Binfield. Dan Daughtry taught all grades in 1900.

Around 1912 the new one room brick schoolhouse was constructed. George Bennett remembers going with a bunch of neighbor boys to watch the progress of the new school building. The carpenter lived in one of the rooms of the old log schoolhouse. George remembers, especially, one evening they sat with the carpenter and he played an old organ and all of the boys enjoyed a song-fest. Many school and neighborhood entertainments were held at the old school, including programs, socials and tea suppers.

The Cedarage CHAMPION stated "The attractive new brick Trickle School is representative of the progress of the community." The school closed after the consolidated school was built in 1926, in Cedarage.

Pioneers coming to Surface Creek County before the law of the eastern half their cabins too far apart for the children to all attend the same school, five small school houses were built in different places. The parents were anxious for their little folks to receive fundamental instruction in the "Three R's" and records show that several mothers

taught their children at home for a year or two until a school was available. Many times students had to walk, or ride horse, or donkey for several miles to school. Older students were kept out of school in Spring and Fall, to help with planting/seed harvesting or crops at home. There was a policy in Delta County in the late 1800's that as soon as there were 17 prospective pupils in a neighborhood a new school district would be formed and a schoolhouse could be built. (By 1900 there were 18 school districts in the county.)

The District provided from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for the school. Most of this money was used for material, for raft, floor, furniture, as the parents hauled logs and did the construction work on the schoolhouse. Where records show that routes were used to Eckert and Cedarage, Cosby and Longor Creek Elementary Schools there was probably a sufficient increase in pupils to warrant the construction.

Records show that some of the land was donated for the construction of a school, while other land was leased to the School District for the time the school was in operation.

The network of schools in the Surface Creek County were built in such a way that nearly all of the children could attend a school without going more than three miles from home. Bond elections for new schools are recorded.

March 6, 1908 — "The School Board voted to hold school full eight months. (Before this some of the schools held classes seven months or less, with no set time for opening or closing of school). School will not end until the last of April. Parents are urged to send their children to school until school closes as they can keep up with classes and have passing grades for next year." — CHAMPION



Pannell School built in 1891

PANNELL SCHOOL — In the fall of 1891 the first school in District 22 was built two miles north of the present town of Cedarage, on the site of Kenneth Brandt's home.

William and Ella Kiser brought their four children, Will, Charles, May and Mary to the claim relinquishment they brought five miles north of the settlement of Cedarage in 1884. As soon as there were enough prospective pupils in the neighborhood (17), Kiser joined the other fathers in the community in cutting the logs and building a one room school house. The School District furnished the shingles and floor material but the men did the construction work and made the door and window casings. The school was named Pannell for the first teacher who had all of the grades from one through seven.

Charles Kiser said, "The pupils the first year were the three Kiser children, Will, Charles and May; three McCos, Bertha, Nell and Pearl; three Rapps, Frank, Ed and Nettie; three Castles, May, Carrie and Pearl; two Inks, Bob and Sarah; also Ernie Johnson, Walt Pannell and possibly

Ernest Sloth. The second year the four McGrades, Dan, Nevt, Mattie and Laurel joined the school group.

Frank Ryan, 91, of Austin, said his parents, Henry and Laura Ryan lived near Pannell School when he was young and he attended school there from 1891 to 1894. Later Harris-Aldridge and her brother Ed were among the early students at Pannell.

Children came to the Pannell School from the immediate vicinity, from Cedarage area and upper Surface Creek.

The Fred Flint family came to Cedarage in 1907 and bought 40 acres almost across the road from Pannell School. The oldest children attended the new school, but after the High School was built in Cedarage, the districts were re-divided and the Flint farm was then in the Cedarage District and the children had to go to the Cedarage Schools.

After Pannell School closed the spring of 1913, the building was sold and moved to a nearby farm. This property was sold and Roy Schwartz bought the old school building and moved it to Delta when it became a part of the First Delta Sales Yard.

CEDARAGE SCHOOLS

CEDARAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL — The first elementary school was built in Cedarage in 1900. It was a one room building and the first teacher, Miss Grace Crank taught all eight grades. In a short time the enrollment had increased so much that another room was added and a second teacher hired; then a third room was built.

The record of the opening of school on Oct. 5, 1906, stated, "Cedarage Schools: In the Primary room Mrs. M.F. Bonefield is the teacher of 40 bright little tots in grades one, two and three and in the intermediate room Miss Maude Zigler teaches 47 students in grades four, five and six.

The Cedarage School bell that had been so much talked about arrived Nov. 22, 1907. An article in THE CHAMPION stated, "It is a very good bell and weighs 500 pounds with fixtures. It is 30 inches in diameter, and made in Hazleton, Ohio. When installed it will be heard in all parts of the District."

CEDARAGE HIGH SCHOOL — Before 1909 students finishing the eighth grade had to go to Delta to attend High School. At this time a two story High School building was planned, which was believed would take care of the higher educational needs of the area for many years. It was constructed south of the Elementary School, with two large classrooms upstairs and a smaller room and a large hall with stairway, downstairs. The School Board thought that two teachers could take care of the class



The first Cedarage High School was built in 1908 south of the Elementary School built in 1900, Insee Morris-prato



CEADARAGE HIGH SCHOOL 1908-11

Left to right back row — Donna Lamar Miller, May Morris, Helen Walsh Frank, Irene Howkins Morris, Marie Lee Gipe, Lillian Cayrell, Ruby Hart, Prof. P.S. Pyle, George Westoe Selinger, Bertrice McReynolds, Muriel Parsons, Grace Gerandt, Helen Parsons. Front row — Bill Ratske, Clarence Hall, Frank Wick, Gifford Gipe, Dwight (Deak) Townsend, Lawrence Rhinhardt, Eugene Peterson and Ernest Briggs.

room for grades nine, ten and eleven (taught the first year) and they hired J.P. Pyle and T.J. Shewwood. They soon found out that another teacher was needed and hired Miss Flemming, but the classroom on the first floor was not finished yet and her classes were held in the downstairs hallway. Seventh and eighth grade classes as well as band practice continued to meet in "The Academy" building.

A large drinking fountain was built between the High School and the Elementary School buildings and there was a pond northeast of the school which provided skating in the winter.

The brick High School building was pronounced unsafe almost from the time it was built due to lack of adequate bracing in the construction. It was condemned some time before the Consolidated School was built in 1928. High School closed early the spring of 1920 as the two story building had to be torn down to make room for the building of the Consolidated School. The new building was ready for use when the fall term opened in September.



Picnic at Sand Creek School, schoolhouse built in early 1900's.

SAND CREEK SCHOOL — This school house was built above the old Werten Coal Mine, about six miles west of Cedarage in the early 1900's (exact date not known).

The school house was moved from a sawmill/industrial region above the Werten Mine to a location near the road on the Hallebeck property. It was converted into a dwelling after it was not needed for a school. It still retains the look of a country school.

COALBY SCHOOL. — The one room Coalby School house was built about 1906. As more families came to the community the students at the school increased, making it necessary to add another room and hire two teachers. The addition was built on the south side of the school house in 1919. Mr. McCully had taught in the one room school in 1910 and after the new room was built, he taught the upper grades and one sixth grade student, Florence Brooks; and Mrs. McCully took care of the lower grades. Even in the early days, the one room school became the center of community activities and entertainments. Wagons and buggies loaded with people came for miles around to enjoy the lively literary programs and debates and dances held in the Coalby School House and the old Coalby Hall. There was a lot of community spirit in the neighborhood.

The store and post office that came about 1905 seem thought that Coalby would become a large town.

Some of the early teachers are remembered as Mrs. Adena Stowell, Quate Bryan, Mrs. Ruth Green, Mrs. Lillah Artoke, and the McCullys. The Coalby Post Office was closed after rural routes were established. Lewis E. Dolph carried the mail on Route 2 for many years. In good weather he would be seen driving one or two horses to a cart, but during the winter and spring months when the roads were really "bad" he came horseback and carried the first class mail in saddlebags.

Mr. Dolph not only brought letters and packages, but would deliver medicine when necessary but he always stopped to deliver mail at the schoolhouse. The students treated him with nickles and dimes to exchange for pencils and tablets at a store in Cedarvale (after Coalby Store closed).

The Coalby community showed their appreciation by giving a Sundry dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Dolph. Over 150 people were present.

Coalby School did not close as some of the other schools did after the districts consolidated in 1920, but continued to have classes for the lower grades until 1926, when the bus routes were established.



COALBY SCHOOL

Back row — McCully, teacher, Delmer McClurg, Phil Pratt, Glen McCully, Wayne Bratton, Lester Howe, Alice Caman, Margaret Elise Howe, Florence McClurg, Letha Brooks, Vernice Pratt, Jessie Parker, Vigil McClurg, Leitta Parker. Front row — Roy Adricks, Charles Adricks, Jess Stillwagon, Eda Westin, Glenn Bratton, Ramona States, Greenview States, Kenneth How, Earl Patton, Francis Howe.

TONGUE CREEK SCHOOLS. — The first school on Tongue Creek was held in 1900 in a little log cabin near the foot of the grade, west of Eckert. It was used until 1923 when a larger, one-room building was constructed about a mile further up the creek, which continued to serve as a school of learning for 40 years.

Like most of the other schools built in Surface Creek County, the one-



TONGUE CREEK SCHOOL. — 1909 (from Morris photo) Back row — Roy Ratake, Annie Hawkins, John Burritt, Irene Hawkins and Bill Ratake. Middle row — Lester Hawkins, Helen Gonzalez, Myrtle Schraff-Hoss, Elsie Schraff, Ernest Hawkins, Frank Bauris, Ira Burritt and Bob Hawkins. Front row — Alva Ratake, Wanda Hawkins, Clarence Gonzalez, Ernest Ball, and Teacher Miss Ethel Aids for 1909 and Mr. Wright for 1909.

room was adequate for the needs of the attendance for several years, but as new settlers came to the neighborhood the number of pupils increased and a second room was added.

The school filled a need for the families in the neighborhood for school progress and entertainments. The students came from up the creek, down the creek, from nearby Bull and Ratake Mesa to the east and over the "dribbles" from as far as Blue Mesa Creek to the west.

When the school closed in 1944 the pupils were given their choice of going to either Eckert or Cedarvale Schools, with the Tongue Creek District paying for their tuition and furnishing transportation.

Surface Creek Champion, 1964: "The Tongue Creek School has 25 students this year and the teacher is Tom Welch, of Delta. The school has received a \$40 bookcase from the school district, which will double the space in the old bookcase which held 200 volumes."

In the summer the books of the school library were kept at the Burritt home, (near the school). Many of the young folks rode horseback to chase books to read during vacation.

CHIPMUNK SCHOOL. — This little log school house, built in the late 1880's was tucked under a bluff on Koozebawler Ridge, an lower Kask Creek. The school was still in use in 1902 when the W.B. Hawkins family moved to the Tongue Creek area. The older Hawkins boys attended the Chipmunk School while the new Tongue Creek School was being established.

When the Otto Peterson family settled west of Cedarvale in 1885 the oldest boy attended Chipmunk School, later they went to Tickler School. After Chipmunk School was closed the building was moved to the Perkins Dairy Ranch.

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN OR REED SCHOOL. — This school was built on the upper Surface Creek road, near the home of the Ben Reed family about 1907. Before this time there was a Finnish Colony further up Surface Creek and it was expected that there would be several of these children come, but before the school opened most of the Finnish families moved away. The school never had a large enrollment. After the Consolidated School, the log building was bought by the John Kunkel family. "Cook" Walters used the logs in building a house, which later burned.



L.E. Dolph, Mail Carrier for Rt. 2, delivering mail to the Coalby Schoolhouse.

CEDAR MESA SCHOOL. — "The Surface Creek Champion" reported that on Aug. 10, 1907, a school would open for a winter term on Cedar Mesa. The school district had levied a bond for \$1,000 for the erection of the two room school. The greater part of the money was used for material and furnishing as much of the work on the frame building was prepared by residents of the mesa.

The school was built of "Hild's Corner" near the Four Corners and was planned to be large enough to accommodate the rapidly increasing population for several years.

Tom Ritter was employed to teach the first term and there were 38 children eligible to attend the school. The school closed in 1920 and the children were taken to Cedarvale. Children from Dry Creek and Redheads Mesa attended Cedar Mesa School when it was first built.

These school houses in different locations were used in the Dry Creek area. The first one is believed to have been built around 1900. It was a little log structure, located below the Freshner ranch. It was used until a second log building was constructed on the Freshner ranch in 1911. The cement block school house was built in 1912. Further up the creek, it was used until 1928 when the children were taken to Cedarvale. The building was divided into two parts, one side became the living quarters for the bus driver and the other side was used for a garage for the school bus.

While the bus driver and his wife were gone to Cedarvale to attend a Farmer's Ball the building burned. It was evident that someone had been trying to siphon gas from the bus and lit a match, as there was still a piece of hose stuck in the charred bus the next day.

After Paenell School was built, Ernest State, William Kiser joined other men in the community in putting up a log Methodist Episcopal Church north of Cedarvale, on what is now the Ken Grant place. This building was put up about 1896, two years before the Cedarvale Elementary School was built. A cemetery was started in the churchyard and 23 people were buried there.

As soon as the church was built the Methodist congregation used it for Sunday services and during the week the children living nearby came to the church for lessons. It was used for school in this location until the Cedarvale Elementary School was built in 1900. About 1907 the building was moved to Cedarvale.

THE ACADEMY. — The log church was set up on the southeast part of the present school grounds. The Methodists still used it for services but gave permission for the school to use it the rest of the week. As soon as the Methodists built a tabernacle they sold the log building to the school district. People who went to school there still affectionately call it "The Academy."

Seventh and eighth grade beside some sixth grade classes were taught here before the first High School was built in 1929, and afterwards the

seventh and eighth grades and band continued to meet there until the Consolidated school was built in 1920. The building was moved again — west of the elementary building and used for agriculture classes; later as a garage for school buses.

JACK RABBIT OR WHITE MESA SCHOOL. — "The Jack Rabbit" school was built south of the Dick White ranch. It was opened in the early 1900's and was used until the late 1920's. Harry Lehigh attended this school when he was in the fifth or sixth grades. He said, "One of the boys in school, Leo Leach was taking a course in taxidermy and mounted a jack rabbit's head which he brought to school and it was hung on the wall. The news of this unusual exhibit gave it the name of 'Jack Rabbit School!'"

There was another small school on the mesa above the Fairview Mine but it was open for only a short time.

FAIRVIEW SCHOOL

A new School District No. 5 was formed in 1900 and a new two room school house, called Fairview, was constructed. It was located half-way between Austin and Cory. The children from Austin and the Gunston Valley attended this school. Because of increased enrollment a third room was built in 1902 and in 1905 a fourth room was added, with restrooms and a farrow room.

Among the early teachers were Settle Knowles, Louise Bunting, Laura E. Ives, Lovene Woolley (Dow), W.I. Art, Satey Art, Jessie Art (Dowling), Inez Weaver, Hazel Lawitt and Alice Brown.

In 1906 Fairview School became part of Delta County Joint School District No. 50 and a new addition was made on the north for the hot log school program.

Royf Pattarf came to the school as principal and taught all of the classes in the seventh and eighth grades, except art and music for 16 1/2 years. Mrs. Maxine Pattarf taught art at Fairview and Eckert School one year. Louis Phillips was principal one year and George Wick for two years. The latter was there when the school closed in 1965. Dorothy Phoenix and Lois Carr were music teachers at Fairview School over a period of several years. Musical programs as well as other school programs and activities were held in the old Cory, or Meard school house, after it was enlarged by the Delta City Women's Club.

Those who taught a number of years at Fairview School include: Nellie Browner, 23 years in the lower grades and five at Eckert after the school closed; Mrs. Ackison of Delta taught 19 years at Fairview; Hazel Vela, 9 years and Mrs. Adorff, several years.

After the school closed the children of Austin and the Gunston Valley were bused to Delta.



Fairview School



First Seventh-day Adventist Church School — 1915. Back row — Mary Baker, teacher; Lena Hough Dennels, Liah Seiderman, Clarence Seiderman. Front row — Opal Seiderman, Chrissie Collins, Vaughn Nichols, Wesley Anderson, Ralph Seiderman, Linnie Baker and Hazel Baker.

The first cement block Seventh-day Adventist Church built in 1915 as well as the frame church, completed in 1957, was designed with the sanctuary room on the first floor and a room for a parochial school in the basement.

Miss Lena Hough Dennels, Wyoming, taught the school the first two years. Other early teachers were Emma Seyder-Landon, Arkansas; Florence Chilson-Dennis, Grand Junction; Marie Edna Baldwin, Delta; Ione McPherson-Burnett, Redlands Mesa and Mauder Noel, Cedarvale. The school furnished elementary training as well as Bible lessons for Adventist children for almost 50 years. It was financed entirely by the church. The attendance of the school ranged from less than a dozen to almost 50 when two teachers were needed.

With the building of the Consolidated School in Cedarvale in 1920 the students were brought to the new school at the expense of the district in "kidwagons". However, some preferred to ride horseback or furnished their own transportation.

The "kidwagons" bringing students from the Reed and Pannell Districts, north of Cedarvale, was large enough to carry 25 to 28 noisy boys and girls. It had a board top, with long board seats arranged on each side so the young people faced each other. The door was in the back. Canvas curtains could be dropped from roof during a storm or in cold weather.



The "Kid Wagon" Letha Brooks-Walker drove, 1923-24 north and west of Cedarvale.

Otherwise, it was an open air affair.

The first driver was Tom Roberts and he had a team of horses. William Marlow had a team of mules, he drove several years. John Beckman also drove mules. Gordon Aldrige started with mule power but changed to a truck. Mr. Elliott drove a truck; John Beckman came back to drive a truck; Roy Shores and Marlow bought a real school bus to use on the route and later used the vehicle to haul apples.

In 1923-24 Letha Brooks-Walker drove a team of horses to a small covered wagon. She picked up the students living along the Lake Road from Reeves Corner north three-fourths mile to the road going past her parents' home.

During the years of the "kidwagons" the roads were not surfaced. The frozen roads of winter and spring were as tough as the proverbial washboard in the morning and the road was deep at night. On days the roads were very muddy, Letha would leave her wagon at Reeves' Corner and the children would all ride on her horses the rest of the way. Children dressed warm and all enjoyed the fun and good will with school friends as the ride led to and from school each day.

A "kidwagon" brought students living on Redlands Mesa to the Eckert Schools for several years.

CEMETERY

While the Methodist Church north of Cedarvale was being used for a church home, about twenty people were laid to rest in the churchyard. When the church was torn down, the people in the Cedarvale settlement felt that the cemetery should be moved closer to the town.

In the month of June, 1905, the result of a mass meeting in Cedarvale was that a Cemetery Association was formed and the burial location chosen was about a 10-acre flat-topped knoll south of town. The people were told that the land could be purchased for \$50 per acre, which included a share of natural water flow in the Alfalfa Ditch. But, in order to have a permanent location for a cemetery, two graves were necessary. For the amount of land they wanted, the price came to \$600.

To these early settlers, \$600 was a lot of money, but they decided they could raise it by selling 60 lots for \$10 each. Later on they set prices of \$10, \$15 and \$25, according to the size of the lot. For the 20 bodies moved from the old cemetery a \$10 lot was provided by the citizenry.

The first grave in the new cemetery was for Mrs. E.E. Frost in 1906. Members of the Cemetery Association were C.S. Blanchard, L.E. DeJoh, T.W. Otter, W.L. Perry and Jas. Hagedorn.

As time went by, the cemetery site became very picturesque place with grass and flowers while for many years previous it was a dry hill. About the only flower that would grow were the old-fashioned purple and white iris.

In 1941 Orchard City water was piped to Cemetery Hill with money donated by W.J. Smithers, Mrs. Bob Curtis and Thore Thompson.

Additional contributions were made to maintain it. This changed the stone barrier hillside into a carpet of living grass, making the cemetery the beauty spot of the Cedarvale area. Grass-seeding was completed in 1949 and 1950 by Charles McDermott and Baker Bond.

Among others, the caretakers were Willie Kitch, Rev. Dolph, Alex Jones, Russell Pomy, Charles McDermott, Clair Gabriel and Ward Roby.

Early settlers bought their caskets in Delta. Friends and neighbors laid out the dead and sat up with the bodies. Horse-drawn hearses, owned by Tom Bentley and Quincy LaFleur, were used in Cedarvale for several years after 1912.

In the late twenties, Mr. A.N. Hall stacked a few caskets in a back room of his "New and Second Hand Store". This occupied the corner room of the present Brooks Service warehouse. About the years 1939 and 1940 the Delta Mortuary had a branch chapel in the building that houses the cafe south of VanHorn Variety Store.

Cedarvale Cemetery is especially colorful on Memorial Day as the Veterans' Bureau of service flags wave along the cemetery walkways. Cabnet-Welby Post 164 of the American Legion set up the flags. Graves of those who served their country are each decorated with wreaths and flags. Old Fellows and Rebekahs decorate graves of their departed members. Most of the graves are remembered with some flowers.



Cedarvale Consolidated School built in 1920.

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL — In 1920 the School District and school boards worked on plans for a central school where they believed the pupils could be given a better opportunity for an education than had been given in the small schools.

When the old school bell rang in September the halls of the new school building echoed with voices of students of all grade levels. Everything was shiny new and there seemed to be room enough for all activities in the new gym-assembly room.

The Old Elementary School was not needed for classes now, but was used for various purposes; home for the custodian of the school; Hot Lunch program in the south part, with the music department in the north side.

HUNTSICKER SCHOOL

A new elementary school Cedarvale was built in 1969 to separate the younger children and high school students, as well as to provide more teaching room for all grades. This school was named for James A. Huntsicker who devoted 44 years as superintendent, principal and teacher in Cedarvale and Eckert educational systems.

The building has eight classrooms; two entry halls, one for classes; an all purpose room for music, hot lunches and meetings; large kitchen to prepare meals for a hot lunch project; and a service area and office.

Merlin George served his first year as principal of Huntsicker and the Eckert school in the 1976-77 sessions. At Cedarvale there were 18 full time employees and one half-time teachers. Last year there were 200 students at Cedarvale Elementary School.

Eckert Elementary uses the old high school building, constructed in 1912. The premises include four classrooms, a work room on the first floor and a special purpose room downstairs. Kindergarten and grades one and two had sessions there. Five full time teachers and one part time are employed at Eckert. Total of 165 pupils.

Mrs. Robert Lawrence of Eckert has headed the hot lunch program at Cedarvale for several years. She has four full time helpers and makes lunch each day. Her staff prepares and delivers daily hot lunches to the Eckert School.

The first few years after the school was built the high school principal,



Huntsicker School built in 1969.

Net all of the school districts joined with Cedarvale when the new Consolidated School was built. Gately consolidated with Cedarvale in 1926 and Tongue Creek School in 1944. The children from these districts went to Cedarvale (or Eckert) with the district paying their tuition and transportation.

Fairview and Cary School districts consolidated in 1925 with the students going to the Fairview School.

"The Eckert High School closed in 1942 due to the inability to secure teachers. The students were given their choice of going to Cedarvale or Delta High School with tuition and transportation paid for by the Eckert District." (Surface Creek Champion)

George Stafford, was in charge of both schools. This was an unsatisfactory arrangement because he did not have time to go to the one very often, and the teachers felt isolated from the system. They found it more satisfying when Mr. Stafford became principal of Huntsicker at the time Mr. William VanHusker came to Cedarvale High School as principal in 1954. He retired in 1970.

Harold Wick was principal from 1970 until 1976, with 31 years of teaching in Delta County. Merle George was principal for one year, 1976-77.

Richard Huntsicker taught teachers and the number of years they served Cedarvale and elsewhere were: Mrs. Anna Maudlin, 43 years; Melvina Grant, 30; Mrs. Vera Lathrop, 30; Mrs. Pearl McHugh, 30 and 25 of these at Cedarvale; Mrs. Jo Knouch, 27 years, third grade in both buildings at Cedarvale; Mrs. Earle Miller, 25 years; Mrs. Marie Carter was a long time teacher as was Mrs. Dorothy D. Phenicke.

GEORGE STAFFORD

George Stafford, principal of CHS 1955 to 1964, and of Huntsicker School, 1964 to 1970, rounding out 37 years in the Delta County school system.





The original water tank built in 1916 for the Orchard City water system on the left and the tank built in 1950. They were constructed on the hill, southwest of the Orchard City town hall.

"Orchard City was born on my dining room table, following a Sunday dinner in 1912." Guy Dixon has often told his friends. He tells that his wife Lillian was very concerned about the condition of the water in the family cisterns, and decided to try to do something about it. The Dixon family was living about half a mile east of the old Cory store.

The Dixon's guests for that memorable day were carefully chosen. They were E.P. Watson, a banker; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dixon (the latter, a trained nurse, was apart about the condition of the water) and Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Hubbard (farmer was later affiliated with the Colorado Power Company).

After dinner was over and the guests had complimented her culinary accomplishments, Mrs. Dixon laid her plans. "There is something I would like to talk over with you. Isn't there some way that we can have good water piped to our homes?"

"After she had dropped the 'bomb', a lively discussion ensued. There were many questions, suggestions and some answers as to building a pipeline to carry good water for domestic use to the ranches on lower Surface Creek Mesa. Hubbard volunteered to have his lawyer look into the project to ascertain the legal angle. Since the first pipeline came to the Surface Creek area the homes were provided with domestic water, either through storage in cisterns or directly from ditches and creeks. Typhoid was not uncommon in the summer and fall and the disease resulted in many deaths.

Dr. Austin E. Miller, who came from Iowa in 1900 to improve his health, developed a large ranch which was named Austin. He advocated that there was a rightful connection between ditch water, flies and epidemics of typhoid fever.

To build a project like a water system for a large rural area, it was necessary to incorporate into it a town of the people who were to be served by the system. That discussion at the Dixon dining table would cover all of the land south from Trickle bridge to the Gamston River. Included would be the towns of Eckert, Austin and Cory.

Notice of incorporation was filed with the secretary of state in May 1912. Orchard City was chosen for the name because a large percentage of the land was in orchards at that time. A remark was made that the name looked "like the Garden of the Lord" in apple blossom time.

The first town council consisted of: Mayor George Williamson, Trustees Charles Dixon, Charles Fegus, Eugene Hubbard, J.P. Kettie, William Stark and Everett White; Edmund Stahler was chosen clerk and recorder. The main business of the town council has always been to build and maintain the Orchard City water system.

In the election of April, 1914, Ed Mathews was elected mayor and, through the resignation of William Stark, Ernest Hughes was placed on the council.

To show disagreement of the pipeline, more than a dozen ranchers held their land out of association to the new town. Later, they changed their

minds when they saw the benefit of good domestic water piped to the homes of their neighbors. They signed up for taps and their acres also became part of the new town.

Early in 1915 Orchard City voted \$50,000 in bonds for installing a water system. Prospective buyers of the bonds considered that high of value put on the land, and almost all of them decided that leading \$50,000 at par with interest of 6 per cent was unanswerable. Finally, Sweet-Caskey and Foster of Denver offered to buy the bonds at \$95 if the town could get an additional 400 acres into the incorporation.

To comply with this request, the council was able to secure the required amount of acreage and three additions were made. First was Austin's, second, from Hovey Lane west to Eckert; and third, Scudder ranch and property north.

Orchard City council voted a mill levy under Ordinance No. 3 on August 16, 1915. The levy was placed on all taxable land of those who would be serviced by the system. This would raise \$3,000 annually from 1915 to 1925 to pay the interest and make payments on the bond, automatically increasing to \$10,000 in 1925. The council was set up to retire the bond in 15 instead of the 30 years for which it was written. However, records show that the mill levy was not discontinued nor the bond paid off until 1938, but still ahead of scheduled date of retirement. All other bonds issued for improvements on the Orchard City system were revenue bonds and a mill levy was not needed.

On January 4, 1940 the city bought the E.E. Burnett ranch west of Cedarvale in order to acquire the decree from Fred Cronk.

The following month, February 14, the council signed a WPA application to install the pipeline from the town to springs on Grand Mesa. There were then only 10 water users outside of the town and were put on a flat rate of \$2 per month for water consumption.

On March 7, 1940 Orchard Bank and Trust of Delta bought the \$50,000 water bond, with an interest rate of 3 per cent for 15 years, and have bought all of the city's bonds since that time.

New lines from Cedarvale to Sleep trail and New York springs were completed in the early part of 1941. There were some reasons left over from the WPA project; no several ditches were laid at this time. WPA labor dug trenches and laid pipes. People being served by the lines paid for pipe and fittings. There was a total of 45 pipes.

In 1946 the council sold to Colorado Bank and Trust \$20,000 in bonds for the purpose of replacing the four-inch line with a six-inch one, to be installed from a point a half mile south of Trickle bridge, in front of the Joe Bobble house. The four-inch pipe that was salvaged was used from this point south to the house of Miss Ann Grisham.

In 1950 \$8,000 in bonds were sold to build a main-and-half line, further improving the system.

In 1953 there were 258 taps in the incorporated town, and 212 taps outside of it. Cost for patrons in town was set at a flat rate of \$6 per quarter with a dollar discount if paid during that 3-month period. Patrons outside of the town and on meters paid \$6 per quarter, with an additional charge of \$1 per 2,000 gallons used over 7,000 gallons each 30-day period between April and October.

Guy Dixon was clerk and water superintendent for 25 years. Until 1958 there was no tap fees inside or outside of town, then a charge was instituted amounting to 35¢ for inside and \$10 an outside one. The fees have steadily increased with inflation of people, and in 1977 a price of \$750 must be paid for inside and \$1,500 for taps outside of the city limits. The revenue has been used to pay at least half of the improvements made on the line.

Since 1954, approximately \$30,000 worth of ditches and reservoir water has been purchased. This is run through a filter plant, purified and then added to the spring water when said water. No more springs are available in the Ward Creek drainage area to tie into the line. On some years there is sufficient water, although it is always short until the snow starts to melt in the springtime on Grand Mesa.

In 1956 when No. 100 was employed, there were 529 taps on the entire line; to 1977 there are 1,905 on the system in the same territory. Size of Orchard City is 11 square miles, or 7,800 acres.

In the early 1960's when water started to run low in the system, a cistern was built on Grand Mesa with \$15,000 bond money. In 1966, the city bonded \$100,000 to build an Eckert cistern and rebuild most of the Eckert distribution lines. A bond of \$120,000 in 1965 was used to build an 8-mile transmission line from Grand Mesa to the Eckert cistern.

During the last six years, 1970 to 1976, Orchard City enlarged and rebuilt most of the line below Eckert at a cost of \$200,000, only about one mile of the old line being still in use. Originally laid in 1916, it is dated for replacement.

A filter plant built in 1976 near the Grand Mesa cistern cost \$108,000. There was sufficient money in a general fund that made bonding unnecessary.

In 1963 or '64 meters were installed on all taps with an allotment of 50,000 gallons of domestic water per month inside city limits and 7,000 gallons outside.

In addition to a serious drought (throughout the western United States) that is adversely affecting this locality, a special census result recently reported by District 10 Regional Planning Commission shows a 61 per cent increase in the Surface Creek area from 1970 to '77. It is the most significant growth of any area in Delta County, according to the Commission, headquartered in Montrose, and administering the proposed CEEP (Overall Economic Development Program).

In law, 1977, Orchard City limits in-law consumers to 30,000 gallons per month, and outside users to 5,000. There is also a need to build a new line from Grand Mesa cistern, past Cedarvale to Eckert to replace the line that was laid in 1940 and '41. The pipe will be twice the size of that now in use. When this project is completed, another replacement will be made to the line from the Grand Mesa cistern on to the top of Grand Mesa.

PROFIT

There has always been a problem in raising fruit; maybe a freeze one year, water shortages or low prices in others, but growers who have stuck with their orchards have made up for the lean times with periods of good prices for good crops.

Farmers experience the same problems and rewards in their day. Anxious to provide a variety of food for their families and fresh fruit and vegetables being unavailable in early-day stores, most of the settlers planted gardens and set out a variety of trees in small family orchards. It seems they set out their own trees because dried apples and peaches were so expensive.

Some records reveal that the first fruit trees set out on Surface Creek Mesa were a few apple, peach, apricot and plum trees brought by Otto Petersen family from Utah in 1882. The trees were set out at their home southeast of the present Cory Store.

Captain Spaulding set out the first small orchard near his home, hence the name, Orchard Ranch #188, which he used.

On his ranch on lower Surface Creek Mesa, early in the 1880's George Childs set out what may be called the first large orchard in this locality. By 1900 many acres of orchards had been planted.

Ranchers' first fruit trees flourished in the virgin soil, and it was not long before other settlers were putting out a few trees; a family orchard. Some of them who planted, looked to the future and saw the potential in fruit farming and large acreages of fruit trees was the result.

Since 1950, more and more of the trend has been toward building cold storage units, to use in connection with packing operations. Several individual fruit growers built these combined units, as did the associations. Boxes of apples kept in cold storage could be in perfect condition for sale several months later. This method increased the sales potential for peaches, apricots, cherries and all stone fruit, as well as apples and pears.

In 1976 season produced an estimated 3.5 million-dollar crop in the Surface Creek area. Estimated average of different fruits in 1977 is:

Apples, 3,000 acres; peaches, 500 acres; sweet cherries, 100 acres; sour cherries, 400 acres; apricots, about 100 acres; plums, 300 acres.

Today raspberries and strawberries are not grown commercially as they were 20 to 30 years ago because of the difficulty in finding berry pickers.

In 1977 several old orchards were cut up into building sites in the Cedarvale and Eckert areas to make homesites for the influx of newcomers. The fruit growers did not set out as many new trees in 1977 as did growers in the North Fork area. This may have been due in part to the water shortage.

Packing sheds operating in 1977 are: Palmer and Company Tapes shed in Cedarvale; Antelope Hill Fruit Company; McPherson's on Cedar Mesa; P and M at Eckert; and Ferguson's Bonita, north of Eckert. Several growers have their fruit taken care of by Hi-Quality, Delta packing company. The cold storage units in several smaller sheds that do not operate, are used to store fruit.

CO-OP TELEPHONE

Before the days of the telephone, communications between Surface Creek country patrons were confined to carrying messages by horseback or on foot. More than one resourceful settler solved the problem by using the Indian method, sending smoke signals. Then in 1909 on November 29th a Co-op telephone office building was started south of Birchard Strawberry store. According to a news story in the Surface Creek Strawberry store, when it was completed "Cedarvale will be the only town in Delta County which has a company-owned building for telephone purposes."

Dr. William F. Follansbee with his wife came to Paola in 1902 to set up medical practice. He is generally acknowledged to be the backbone organizer of the locally owned and operated telephone utility. O.J. Stone of Paola who retired in mid-1955, after 58 years of service with the telephone industry, spent 50 years with the Co-op.

Actually, Delta County Co-operative telephone company was preceded by a private telephone line which was constructed by the late Abner McKee of Paola. In 1897, McKee stretched a wire from Paola to Delta in Cedarvale; across hills, topsoil and even on tops of fence posts in some places. The Delta County articles of incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State of Colorado on January 15, 1897, capitalized for 500 shares at \$5 per share.

On October 4, 1908, at midnight the new modern dial phone system went to work. At the old system went into retirement, so did "Central" the familiar woman's voice who had answered summons from subscribers for 50 years. These dedicated operators served as unpaid secretaries of the local doctor, businessmen and fire department; told kids where their folks were, and vice versa. There were a number of folks who missed the convenience of having the operator give them a call early in the morning to make sure the alarm clock had worked, or to tell them it was time to take the bread out of the oven.

In July, 1970, the Co-op long another major step forward when an innovation designed to bring improved telephone service to some 1,273 subscribers in the Cedarvale and Eckert area got underway. This was the new automatic long distance dialing. In no time at all it seemed, Paola, Somerset and Crawford, too, had single party telephone service. The cut-over to 000 (direct distance dial) was made on the Cedarvale Exchange April 3 and at Eckert, April 17, 1971.

The scope of the Delta County Co-operative telephone company is growing daily. With the added benefit of the state lawmakers in the courts, the future of the telephone company looks promising.

(Quotes for this article were taken from the original history of Delta County Co-operative Telephone Company, written by Bob Symons of Paola)

"Have Green Valley Call" — During the hot weather, it will heat up rapidly and enable you to cook a meal in 10 minutes and your kitchen won't be so much like the place some of us are apt to go later to. (Champaign)

Surface Creek Valley residents have been provided new coverage by "The Surface Creek Newspaper", 1904 to 1941; "West Slope"; for about one year; "The Valley"; "Surface Creek"; "The Sassy"; "The Shoppers Guide" and "The Cub" for less than one year.

INDIAN RELICS OF BY-GONE YEARS



Indian wigwam poles discovered north of Cactus Park side of Grand Mesa.



Indian wigwam poles found in the foothills of Grand Mesa.



Art Lewis with part of the old Indian brush fence on Maker Ridge.

Many Surface Creek area residents and visitors have been thrilled to find a perfect arrowhead or other Indian artifacts in both the valley and foothills of Grand Mesa. Several people are known to have scoured collections of them, including shovels, knives, awls, spearpoints, as well as many shapes and sizes of arrowheads.

An outstanding fact that many artifact hunters are unaware of is that there are remains of several Indian dwellings and an old brush fence in this area. They are still quite well preserved, although almost 100 years ago the Utes were moved from their summer range on the Uncapagnah and Grand Mesa to the Uteans.

This tribe that inhabited the locality were nomadic and did not make permanent settlements; consequently, these few wigwam remains are of interest because they show something about their living habits.

Since ruins of this kind are irreplaceable, even seemingly harmless inspection can cause destruction; and one who comes upon such things should stop, look and leave untouched.



Mary Armstrong found this clay Indian cook-pot tucked under a rocky ledge, on the side of Grand Mesa, below "The Point".

AMERICAN LEGION COBBETT-WELLY POST NO. 394

A group of young World War I veterans met in the hall above the Cedarvale bank to organize an American Legion Post. The charter was signed August 1, 1920. Name was Cobbett-Welly Post 104 with 29 charter members.

The Post was named for two Cedarvale boys who made the supreme sacrifice for their country during World War I. William Arthur Cobbett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cobbett was one of them. He was born March 18, 1896, enlisted in the Service on October 13, 1917, engaging in the battles of Somme and Rheims, France. Young Cobbett gave his life in the Battle of Soisy, France, July 30, 1918. He was buried at Guernsey Cemetery there.

The other boy, Paul DeWilly Welly was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Welly. Born January 2, 1883, he entered the Service on May 25, 1918. He was a victim of the "Flu" epidemic at LaFame, France on January 2,



Picture taken May 30, 1934 at the Second Memorial Day Service.

1933. There is no record of his burial place.

First commander of the Cobbett-Welly Post — as Leo Clyde Lachish. Cobbett-Welly Post at Cedarvale was re-chartered about 1930. Homer Elliott remembers that Cecil Stowell was elected commander and Elliott, vice commander that year. The first memorial service was held in the Cedarvale cemetery on May 30, 1933. Stowell was away from home and Elliott acted as commander for the ceremonies.

Mrs. Cecil (Adella) Stowell helped to plan the program procedure, which has remained very much the same for memorial services over a period of the last 44 years.

Breaded in their Service uniforms, Legionnaires marched to the spot to begin the commemorative ceremonies. Deacons carried a small flag, the honor guard carried deer rifles.

The Avenue of Flags was set up by the Legion in 1953. Casket flags on poles were set up on each side of the road leading from the gate to the memorial flagpole in the center of the cemetery. Ice poles were set up on each side of the road the first year. In 1965 there were 29 and in 1966, there were 30 flags. Relatives of veterans buried in other places gave to the local Legion casket flags to be flown in the Cedarvale cemetery.

Cemeteries in this vicinity are beautiful on Memorial Day when they are decorated with the Avenues of Flags. Individual grave flags with wreaths are placed by Auxiliary members, and also by KODJ and Rebekah Lodges, Masons and individuals. There is scarcely a grave that doesn't have at least one flower.

ECKETT POST OFFICE



Eckett Post Office

The first Eckett Post Office was located in the store owned by Dell Stiles and he was appointed the first Post Master on Oct. 27, 1891. His wife was Elizabeth Eckett before their marriage and Eckett is the name he substituted for the new post office.

A Mrs. Chambers is listed as the next post master and the office was moved to her home, the second house south of the creamery.

The post office was brought back to the Eckett Store and King and Reynolds were the postal employees.

Other postmasters were: Elton Wenger until 1918 when the postal department was moved to the telephone building, south of the Eckett store. Mrs. Echo Burnett was postmistress 1918-1923. Wenger took the job a second time and retired in 1942. During Smith's second term Wengler in postal employ. Charlene Worman is in charge of the Eckett Post Office in 1946 the Eckett Post Office was rated fourth class and was changed to a third class office in 1958.

CEDARDALE POST OFFICE

The United States postal operations at Cedarvale have shown continuous expansion since the office was first established in 1894. A small log building on the place now owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Roe is believed to have housed the first post office. Mrs. Kate Lovett was the first postmistress.

From 1894 to 1900 the only heaves in town were the Lovett home and post office and a house occupied by W.C. Wansamaker.

In the early days, mail was hauled by wagon to Cedarvale from Delta. Billy Smith of Delta and Gregg Smith were among the early-day drivers.

The Lovett house and post office building were sold at A.C. Botzford and his sister, Mary Botzford, was the next postmistress.

In 1899 the post office was moved to the Lesatz home with Margaret Frank as postmistress. The first money order was written for Anna Roughly on January 3, 1899.

In 1900 a Mr. Holland built the first store on the corner where the First National Bank now stands. It was customary for people coming into town for supplies to stop at the store first, then go out the back door, cross a yard and enter the Frank home to get their mail.

Joseph Hagrefe became postmaster in May 1902 and the post office operations were moved to the new stone building, known for many years as Wick's store.

Norman Baker was postmaster from May 1907 to February 1908. In 1907 the post office was moved again, this time to the room in the southwest corner of Frank's Service Station warehouse. Cornelia Johnson was postmistress from March 1908 to July 1909.

SURFACE CREEK VALLEY POST OFFICES

In August of that year, Harry Cobbett became postmaster and served until March 1915. In the meantime (in 1914) the post office advanced from fourth to third class and was moved to a location now occupied by Kelly's Boutique, corner of Main and Cedar Mesa Streets. Postal savings and parcel post were established about 1915 and two rural routes were started.

Carriss were: Frank Schramm for the first route, and L.E. Dolph for the second. Mileage on the rural route was determined by measuring a wagon wheel, tying a red flag to a spoke and then counting the revolutions to the wheel.

Frank Childs served as postmaster from April 1915 until February 1923. In 1917 the international money order system was commenced and continued until August 1904.

Once again Harry Cobbett became postmaster in March, 1923 and served until May, 1932. Alice Deenhu-Soon was a clerk in the post office during that time.

Other postmasters were: Frank J. Stewart from June 1932 until July 1933, and Robert P. James in August 1933, retired under Civil Service in 1948. Until 1938 postmasters received short-term political appointments.

In 1940 the Cedarvale Post Office ranked seventh of the third class post offices in Colorado for being a U.S. Government savings bonds. Lela C. Acst, daughter of R.P. James, was appointed postmistress in September 1941.

Judd Hart, an appointive, retired in October 1975. Ralph Wallace acted as officer in charge of the post office until Margaret Wills received her appointment in July 1976.

The Cedarvale office has been a second class office for about 25 years.



Old Champion office now Cedarvale Floor Covering, Bolton building, now Sheriff's Fishhouse, U.S. Post Office built in 1965 on the site of old Cedarvale Hotel.

CORY POST OFFICE

During either the latter part of 1894 or early in 1895 the Cory Post Office was established. First postmaster, George Harshaw, sent to the government a request that Cory, his wife's given name be used to designate the new post office. However, the postal authorities changed the spelling to Cary. It was reported that this was done because at that time post offices were not named for women. The first letter received at Cory Post Office was addressed to Pe and Ma Swanson, according to old records.

No definite record of the location of the first post office exists. Some say it was located across the road from the Gene Hubbard home place and that Miss Ella Gilmer was the first postmistress. Other records are to the effect that original business was conducted in a very small room in the Charles Dixon home — and that George Harshaw was the first postmaster. Both versions are given to avoid slighting anyone.

It is told that the Delta-Cedarvale mill stage brought the first communications only as far as the crossroads. There it was left in a small house in a corner of the —m-lager property, owned by Mr. Bradley. Then it was sent on to the Harlan home to be distributed by the postmaster. Later, postal apparatus was moved across the road from the Gene Hubbard place. Names of postmasters who served in this location were: Mrs. Lou Gilmer and Henry Hawker, Miss Clara Samuel and Lee Senlock. In the early 1900's the Cory store and residence of Mrs. Clara Stewart was built by a Mr. Sullivan, to which place the post office was moved. Mr. Landreth was postmaster for several years.

Landreth later sold the property to a M. McCauley who also served as postmaster. Mrs. Ruth Duce afterwards bought the property and was postmaster for several years. She received her commission February 17, 1917, during the time Albert S. Burleson was postmaster general.

When Mrs. Duce resigned, a M. Whitbread became postmaster. At that time postmasters were paid by calculations up to a certain amount — over that figure the department bore a percentage.

Mrs. Clara Stewart was the next postmistress, receiving her appointment from Postmaster General Harry S. New in 1927. Mrs. Stewart served 23 years and retired August 7, 1950.

At that time Lou Luger was appointed acting postmaster. He served until November, 1951, when Mrs. wife, Bertha, was appointed in his place. The following year Highway 65 was changed, and in 1953 the Lagers constructed a new building on the revived highway. They moved the post office and store to its present location. Mrs. Luger was postmistress in the new building until she retired in 1947. From then until the present time, 1977, Corale Helrick has been postmistress.

Among the first store clerks were Al Morris, Billy Smith, John Laxton, "Doc" Lambert, Qualls Britton, Andy Eckart and Bob Campbell, who owns a truck line.



Gay Post Office, built in 1953

ANTLOPE HILL FRUIT FARM

Hutless Orchard company's 150-acre fruit ranch on Antelope Hill is truly a stately paradise, and can be seen for several miles in every direction.

The hilltop ranch is piped with domestic water from Orchard City. Several families live on the ranch year around, including the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Heige Hutless and their two sons who are partners in the ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hutless and family, Robert Hutless, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Girling.

In addition to the ranch furnishing employment locally (150 persons work in the cherry crop at harvest time) two plots are agreed to improving the quality of fruit.

For over 20 years the owners have been conducting fertilizer tests on sweet cherries in cooperation with Dr. Ewell Rogers and the experiment station at Austin. One thing they learned was the need of nitrogen in the soil.

Many fruit growers have problems peculiar to their industry, but because of the unique location of the "orchard in the sky," setting and

maintaining a pipeline for irrigation was a major difficulty during the 1920's.

In 1908 Albert Stockham and his brother, William, (who operated a bank in Delta) bought the property from a man in Eckart. This was the beginning of the development of Antelope Hill. The Stockhams installed a 14-inch water pipeline and later sold the ranch to a man from Kansas City.

Brothers Ralph and Royden Girling purchased the property in 1928, and replaced half of the orchard with new trees, replanting most of the apple acreage with apricots.

The Girling brothers also replaced much of the existing pipeline and added another 2,900 feet, extending it 2 1/4 miles later. They also added another 5,100 feet (2 1/2 miles) from Redlands Mesa to the east to augment the Orchard City water supply. An earlier 14-inch pipe from the north was also replaced because soon after it was put into service the original pipe proved to be too light to stand the terrific pressure.

The original pipeline was laid under the Fruit Growers reservoir in 1931 and the pipeline broke — directly under the lake. The fix the pipe, it was necessary for a repairman to be a diving suit.

At that time, diving suits were hard to find. One was finally located in Boston. The suit was rented and shipped here by express. It arrived, only to present another problem. The suit was so small a repairman had to be found to fit it. This accomplished, the trial began to determine how much weight was necessary to sink the man wearing it to the bottom of the reservoir. When these stamking blocks were overcome, it took only an hour or so to fix the pipe. Many of the ditches were cement-lined to reduce seepage irrigation water.

In 1925 Ralph Girling bought his brother's interest and operated the ranch for the next 15 years. Heige Hutless bought it from him in 1950.

The original patent of land sold by the United States Government was to John W. Taylor in 1911; warranty deed from Taylor to Albert H. Stockham was in 1914; then to J. Fred Freed, 1925; M.D. Slaughter, 1928; and to Dorothy Putman the same year.

The Putman owner sold the ranch to Royden Girling in 1925. It became the property of Royden and Ralph Girling in 1931. Antelope Hill was sold to Heige Hutless in 1950.

The stately paradise is equipped with its own modern packing sheds and cold storage cellar underneath, large enough to store five carloads of fruit. It is adequate to cool fruit after picking and for storage. Temperature of the fruit when it is picked is approximately 90 degrees. The storage cellar is constructed to keep the temperature down to 36 degrees. Freshly picked fruit that is cooled for 24 hours improves in quality, and withstands shipping conditions better than fruit shipped directly from the orchard.

The quality of the Hutless Orchard company fruit is consistently improving. About 10 acres are a real gem every year with new varieties. Cherries and peaches are the two main crops. By setting out several varieties of peaches the harvest has been extended by more than six weeks.

Heige had many years of experience in the fruit business before he bought the fruit ranch. He owned the Horton place, east of Antelope Hill, purchased in 1943. There he grew mostly peaches. He has been in poor health for the past 12 years and his two sons, Jim and Bob, have become full partners with him — they are the managers, their father is the advisor.

Heige Hutless, Royden and Ralph Girling married three sisters, Vida, Pansy and Mary DeGrueter of Maker. All have worked together in the fruit growing business.

In addition to reaping a beautiful harvest, dwellers on Antelope Hill are blessed with a magnificent view of the mountains. To the south lies the rugged Hartman; to the east is the Ruby Mountain Range. Grand Mesa overlooks the foothills and valleys to the north. On a normal wet year, sheep graze in the orchards after the fruit season is over on this flat-topped stately paradise.

CEADARVALE SCHOOL HISTORY

Cedarvale schools were located in District 22 from the time the first room of the elementary school was built in 1906, until the area was re-districted in 1927. Cedarvale was then placed in District 36.

It is interesting to note that there were more teachers, and probably more students in the Eckert school than at Cedarvale in 1905-06. In the years 1908-09, the number of teachers was the same in both schools. All of those will be listed who taught in the Cedarvale and Eckert Schools until Eckert High School was built in 1912. From then on, just high school teachers' names will be given.

They were: 1905 — Miss Emma G. Myers, county superintendent; principal of Cedarvale elementary was W.F. Benfield and working with him in 1905 were Lottie Daughy, assistant, and Mrs. R.R. Biggs. In 1906 his other teachers were: Effie Salera who taught for four months; and Mattie Christensen; three months. Anna Manchester taught in Tangle Creek School in 1905.

1907 — Benfield, principal, received a salary of \$70 per month. His wife, Mrs. L.J. Benfield received \$55. Miss L.M. Degler and Grace Cummings each earned \$55 monthly wages.

1908 — William Melcher was principal for two years. His other teachers that year were Ethel Laughlin and H.A. Morris, also Grace Harding who taught for two years. 1910 — Records missing.

1911 — Belle McElchies county superintendent. J.F. Pyle, principal two years in the new Cedarvale High School. Other teachers: E.J. West; C.E. Shawnee, two years, eighth grade; Orla Lee, grades six, seven, and eight; Beula Lee, grades four, five, and six; Ethel Tucker, one and two.

1912 — J.F. Pyle, principal and the other high school teacher was Edith Remington. Each of the elementary teachers taught two grades. 1914 — E.D. Smith, principal, received a salary of \$100 a month; F.O. Schwan, \$75; and Best McBride was the other teacher but no amount of her salary is recorded.

1915 — Atha Price, county superintendent. E.D. Smith started the year as principal, but later resigned and T.A. Pan continued with the work. Other teachers were the same as the previous year — Schramm and McBride.

1916-17 — E.E. Wetmore was principal; teachers were McBride and Zola Hackett.

1918 — Principal was F.J. Henderson; teachers, Annie A. Shreeve and Katherine Anshury.

1919-20 — Grace Cummings was superintendent of the county, and no record exists of the teachers' names.

1921 — F.J. Henderson, principal; and teachers were Lillian Huff, Josephine Daubert and C.S. (Bartholomew) Montgomery, the latter was also coach teacher for five years.

1922 — Claude Roby, principal; teachers, Mrs. Blanch Phillipps taught for four years; Adelle Stowell, two years; R.G. Montgomery, and Verana King.

1923 — J. Francis Peck, principal and Florence Thomas, new teacher. 1924 — J.A. Husacker came to Cedarvale High School and was superintendent for eight years. R.G. Montgomery was the principal. New teachers included Grace Felger, Mary Thayer and Gene Bland.

1925 — R.S. Montgomery, principal; new teachers, Helen McKinney, Anna McCabe and William Eckart. Mrs. Montgomery taught with R.E. Biggs in eighth grade. Elementary teachers, Mary Ketch, Pearl Dubbs and Dorothy McGinnam.

1926 — New teachers: J.C. Callhart taught for five years; Blanch Phillipps, three. Other teachers: H.M. Chambers, Dorothy Leach, Jeanette Grant, Stella Stoltz, Edna Martin and Beula Gonsch.

In 1927 when school districts were changed and Cedarvale placed in No. 36, J.A. Husacker was superintendent and J.C. Callhart was principal. New teachers were: Robert E. Briggs, Vera Ingators and Philip Young. Vera Ingators-Mills taught at Cedarvale High School for 38 years.

1928 — New teachers were Grace Combe and Phil Young. 1929 — New teacher, Harrison Bull and Ernest Bell. 1930 — New teachers, Edward

Wiley, coach; Edith J. Cummings, Charles Flett and L.E. Long, band. 1931 — All of the 1930 teachers returned with the addition of Edith Sheldahl and R.M. Allen.

1932 — County Superintendent was Mrs. Weeks. Superintendent of Cedarvale High School, Ernest Briggs, and J.A. Husacker started to teach mathematics and Latin which he continued to do for the following 25 years. Others: G.C. McKnighton, three years; A.M. Allen, two; Laura Kennis, four; Guy Clayton, five; and Helen H. Hicks.

1933 — Hazel Lawell, county superintendent. A.M. Allen principal of Cedarvale High School, and D.C. McKnighton, superintendent, Cedarvale High School. P.E. Hansen was a new teacher.

1934 — D.C. McKnighton, superintendent and A.A. Allen principal of Cedarvale High School, all of 1933 teachers returned.

1935-41 — Wayne Britton was superintendent of Cedarvale High School. 1936 — New teacher was Delmer Burn. 1937 — Marcus Court and Clara Taylor were new ones. 1938 — Teachers were the same as the previous year. 1939 — New, Clara Taylor, Robert Wilson and Kenneth Pelt. In 1940, two years, 1940 — Mattie Flett was county superintendent, Cedarvale High School new teacher was Earl Swarner. 1941 — Martha Sprague was county superintendent until 1957. New teacher at Cedarvale High was Margaret Duggs.

1942 — Delmer Burn was superintendent of Cedarvale High School. Teachers: Wayne Britton, seven months; and Robert J. Wilson. New ones: Maurine Bosley and Francis Followmaker; and for music, Eugene Yeager. The Eckert High School was closed in 1942 and the high school students attended either Cedarvale or Delta schools.

1943 Delmer Burn was superintendent at Cedarvale High. 1944 — Fred H. Post was superintendent. 1945-47 Wayne Britton, superintendent. 1947-51 Robert J. Wilson, superintendent. 1951-52 Walter E. Merr was principal. 1953-54 Ben Pan served as principal. 1955-64 — Principal was George E. Stothard from Cedarvale High School and Husacker School, for a total of 39 years in educational work in Delta County.

1964-68 — William VanBuskirk, principal. 1968-76 Marvin George, principal of Cedarvale High and superintendent at Cedarvale High. 1977 — Harry Marston, principal. There were 19 teachers at Cedarvale High and there were 370 students when school started and 340 when school closed. Teacher-student ratio in the high school averaged 18.6 pupils per teacher as compared to the replanters of 17 at set down in the late 1800's by Delta County educators.

The high school holds classes for grades seven through twelve. In addition to the old Consolidated School, built in 1926, two pre-fab buildings are used for commercial classes, vocational offices and junior high classes. The chemistry building also houses the shopwork classes.

Built in 1993, the old elementary school is utilized for Mr. Bob Eliason's science classes Nos. 1 and 2, and for an auxiliary gymnasium. The auditorium serves also for P.E. classes, playing volleyball and basketball games, student assemblies and for physical education and stage plays.

Members of the Board of Education of Aert School District 58 of Delta County have: Harlander School was built in 1959 by John E. Weil, Gerald W. Wade, Fred A. Hinton, Thomas W. Gobre Jr., E.J. Carpenter, Norman Schwaner and L.F. Young. The Superintendent of Schools was Clarence Snyder. The general contractor was R.A. Pender Construction Company of Grand Junction and the architect, Wheeler and Lewis of Denver. The teachers and students for grades six through six moved to the new school building on Feb. 5, 1960.

By the 1920's fruit farming had become one of the major industries of Surface Creek Valley. Orchards were continually improved by grafting and re-planting old varieties of apple and peach trees with new, more marketable types. Fruit associations were formed and several large packing sheds built where, working together several fruit growers could pack and market their fruit to better advantage than could each grower working alone.

SURFACE CREEK CREAMERY

The Surface Creek Creamery Association was formed in 1929 by a group of 73 farmers at a meeting in the Cedarvale Community Church. To house operations, a large brick building was constructed at Eckert, and the Creamery started serving the public May 26, 1930. The debt on the plant was paid off in four years.

Branches were established in Montrose and Grand Junction, and by 1943 membership in the association had grown to 1,500 dairy farmers. The first manager of the plant, Big Williams of Eckert, stayed on the job 18 consecutive years. His successor, Jim Dillon, was employed by the Creamery in 1934, during the post-World War I depression period. Due to lack of business, the operators were threatened when only 142 cream producers remained active.

Butter sales were extended in the local area in 1935. The Eckert plant also processed cream from producer members of the Valley Creamery Association of Grand Junction, which business the Eckert plant took over in 1935.

Seven years later, in 1942, due to lack of volume, the Montrose Co-operative Creamery was forced to close its doors. The participants also joined operations with the Surface Creek group, increasing the membership to over 1,500 cream producers.

In 1930 butter sales were expanded into every town on the Western Slope and in August 1957 the Eckert Creamery received cream from the Plateau Creamery Association of Colorado.

From May 1936 to December 1957 the association paid cream producers extra dividends above the market price advanced for butterfat — well over \$550,000 in addition to making a good savings on dairy supplies available to the producers. Divided checks were sent out annually as long as the Surface Creek Creamery Association operated.

Jim Dillon served as manager from 1948 until 1971. Other long-time workers at the Creamery were Weldon Gosner, 1931-76 and Mary DeMaude who worked there for about 23 years.

In 1977, January 3, the Creamery was sold to Glen and Betty Austin and is operated as a family affair. Betty is the daughter of Ed Williams and grew up while her father was managing the Creamery. She is the bookkeeper; a son, Arin (Gorkley) is manager and butter-maker, and a daughter, Vana Sue Harris, drives the truck.

Jim Dillon worked at the Creamery for 37 years, 23 of them as manager. He reported the following statistics related to the sale of the business to the Austins. The association paid back \$42,000 on the building fund; \$71,800 on mortgages; \$9,500 federal, and \$2,500 state taxes on capital gain. The producers netted \$133,800 on assets. (Each producer was issued one share of stock they bought when they started to sell cream. One share entitles him to one vote.)

In May 1977 the last checks were sent to stock owners following the liquidation of assets.

FIGURE 4 RANCH

In 1883 or '84 the Figure 4 Cattle Company was organized in Hart's Basin by S.S. Baldwin and later operated by A.O. Botsford. In 1909 the ranch was owned by Dr. J.A. Whiting, Delta County Representative to the State Legislature, who had come to live on the ranch in 1895. A story about the ranch was printed in the 1909 edition of the Champion and it gave the following information: "The principle part of the Figure 4 ranch is located in Hart's Basin and it is the largest ranch in the valley." The name was derived from the brand which was just the figure 4.

The ranch holdings consisted of four sections, with about 1,200 acres of choice land located in Hart's Basin. On the south slope of Grand Mesa, some six miles northeast of Cedarvale, there were about 1,200 acres of pasture land. On the north approximately 800 acres were in cultivation. Of these, 500 acres were in alfalfa and the remainder in oats, of the latter 1,200 bushels were produced. Less than two acres of potatoes showed a yield of 500 bushels. Frank Bazzard was foreman of the ranch for many years.

The Whiting ranch of 2,150 acres was sold April 14, 1911 for \$150,000

(according to an item in the Champion). At this time, the ranch had 1,200 acres in alfalfa and on Surface Creek 950 acres used for spring and fall pasture. The new owners were a Mr. Gilpen and other parties. The purchasers planned to continue operating in the cattle business.

Clifford Eakes was the owner of the 1,500-acre ranch when it was sold in 1951 to Abercrombie and Paul Venable. It was still called the "Figure 4." It was known as one of the largest ranches developed in Delta County in the early days when the county was being settled.

Four years later, H.S. Abercrombie, J.H. McLaughlin and Tom Lunley purchased the property and changed the name to the "Ying 4 Ranch." McLaughlin and Lunley bought out Abercrombie in 1955 and changed the name of the ranch back to the "Figure 4."

The new owners made many improvements on the ranch. They designed a push-button system for the feed bins, in which were combined ideas they picked up from farms they visited all over the country.

In 1958, in addition to fattening beef, they bought three brood mares, a filly and a stallion, all registered quarter horses. Another improvement on the ranch was the setting out of 500 apple trees in 1957 and the owners added more trees to the orchard the following spring.

Tom and Anne Lunley bought out the other partner, and the Bub Casaferry family moved to the ranch in 1959. Bob was manager of the ranch for the next 12 years. During this time the quality of the good beef they raised was known far and near as "Figure 4 beef."

The Lunleys sold the ranch in 1972 to the present owners, George and Margaret Lusk, Margo and Austin Kiser, and Gary Volk who also owns another ranch in the Rustic Mountain country. They run about 1,000 mother cows and feed out all of the calves. They have about 12 acres of orchard on the ranch.



MORT
BECKLEY

"The Grand Old Man of Grand Mesa" Mort Beckley hoped to spend his 100th birthday in his cabin on the Mesa, but didn't make it by six years. He was born June 9, 1877, the seventh child of a family of 12. His parents, George and Martha Beckley came to Delta County in 1868 and bought from Mrs. Harrington the relinquishment of a farm at the mouth of Figure Creek, feet of Cory Grade. Here they built a two-story house of heavy logs, which is still standing but not occupied any more. The cabin for the post office of "Marion" was built near their home.

The Beckley children attended the Mount School, Mort always called it the Rice School. He started working when he was 14 years old for Dad Mauer who ran cattle on Grand Mesa. From then on, he spent many summers working on "The Hill," riding for cattle, working on reindeer and for the forest service.

Mort and Helen Hewitson of Paonia were married October 22, 1907 and lived in various places. Mort lived alone in his cabin on Grand Mesa each summer for about 20 years, and even spent most of one winter there when he was in his late 80's. For over 26 years his children and friends gathered at his cabin for a big dinner to help him celebrate his birthday. His living children are Jim and Herb of Cedarvale, Wilford, and twins Phyllis and Philip.

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Cedarvale State in 1895. Greg Smith, driver, with horses "Midget and Flora."



Sam and Kate Levitt as they arrived in Cedarvale from Texas, N.M. in 1889.